

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 17 November 2009

THE SPEAKER (Mr G.A. Woodhams) took the chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

PAUL WILLIAM ANDREWS

Condolence Motion

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [2.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Paul William Andrews and tenders its deep sympathy to his family.

Paul Andrews was born on 11 November 1955 in Bunbury, the son of Peter William Andrews, a business proprietor, and Patricia Hilda Taylor. He married Lim Gim-Hoon at St Thomas the Apostle Church, Claremont on 3 October 1982. Paul was educated at St Thomas's primary school, Bunbury; Marist Brothers' College, Bunbury; and Bunbury Senior High School. He attended the Western Australian Institute of Technology from 1973 to 1980; the Western Australian College of Advanced Education from 1982 to 1983; and Murdoch University from 1993 to 1994. Paul was employed as a school teacher at St Norbert College from 1977 to 1981, and from 1982 to 1985. He worked with the Adult Migrant Education Service in 1982 and for Lumen Christi College from 1986 to 2000.

Paul was the Labor candidate for the House of Representatives electorate of Pearce in both 1996 and 1998. He was also the Labor candidate for the Legislative Assembly seat of Avon at the 1996 state election, before being elected to this house as the member for Southern River in February 2001 and retaining his seat at the 2005 election.

Paul served in this house as a member of the Education and Health Standing Committee from 30 May 2001 to 23 January 2005; as a member of the Procedure and Privileges Committee from 7 April 2005 to 6 September 2008; as the Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation from 8 March 2006 to 6 September 2008; and as an Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1 May 2001 to 6 September 2008.

Paul represented Western Australia in Gaelic football in 1974, 1975 and 1977, and was an instructor for the World Taekwondo Federation, Western Australian Branch.

During Paul's maiden speech to this house on 2 May 2001, he raised the issue of organ donations and described to the house his own personal experience of kidney failure and being the beneficiary of a kidney transplant. Paul continued to raise the issue of organ donation throughout his time as the member for Southern River.

On behalf of all members of this house, I extend our deepest sympathy to Paul Andrews' wife, Gim, and his children Lara, Rebecca and Peter. Paul Andrews was a respected and much-liked member of this house, and that applied right across both sides of the Parliament. I pass on my personal sympathy to his family. He was much loved and respected and we will miss him.

MR E.S. RIPPER (Belmont — Leader of the Opposition) [2.04 pm]: Members on this side of the house join the Premier in extending our deep sympathy to Gim, Paul Andrew's wife, and to his family. Paul was among the class of newly elected Labor members in 2001. At that time we had a caucus that, by a majority of one, consisted chiefly of new members of Parliament. It was a very pleasant day when we assembled to see rank upon serried rank of Labor members and to see Paul Andrews amongst them. As the Premier indicated by his reference to Paul's political career, Paul was one of those people who was so committed to the cause that he took on unwinnable seats in a series of campaigns and finally came into this Parliament by winning in a marginal seat campaign. He convincingly won the seat of Southern River from former Liberal member Monica Holmes. There was no easy ride for Paul in politics; it was a matter of hard work and commitment. He increased his winning margin in the 2005 election to more than eight per cent. Following a redistribution of the seat in 2007, he was defeated at the 2008 election.

Paul was an avid sportsman as a young man and he went so far as to represent Western Australia at a national level in Gaelic football. At the same time, he spent his life battling kidney disease after a serious illness damaged his kidneys when he was 10. In 1991 he suffered chronic renal failure and was forced to endure dialysis treatments while waiting for an organ transplant. In 1992 he was fortunate enough to receive a kidney transplant. Paul was the first person elected to Parliament to have received an organ transplant. He did a lot better than simply express gratitude for the opportunity of receiving the transplant. As we all know, he became a tireless campaigner for organ donation. In his very first speech to Parliament he highlighted his commitment to

increasing awareness of the need for more organ donors. So strong was Paul's understanding of the hard wait that people requiring organ donation go through that when his donated kidneys began to falter in 2006, he refused to join the donation list again, saying that he had had his turn. He campaigned for changes such as establishing a system to audit all deaths in Western Australia to identify potential donors and for a doctor in each major hospital to track patients and have them assessed as potential donors. He supported legislation that removed the restriction on donors from outside a patient's family making live organ donation. His successful campaign helped Western Australia go from having the lowest number of donors to having the highest number by 2006. In an interview he advocated in his usual strong way on this issue. He was talking about how almost immediately after death a person's organs begin to decay and he said, "Why the hell wouldn't you give them to someone?" That was his style of no-nonsense advocacy that did so much to build the profile of organ donation in this state. We should all recognise his great contribution in that area.

Paul was many things besides an advocate for organ donation. First and foremost he was a family man. I would particularly like to join with my colleagues in the Labor Party and with all members of Parliament in expressing my great sympathy for his wife Gim, who is here today with us, and his three children, all of whom stood by Paul with tremendous strength during his long struggle with illness.

Paul was also a passionate and committed local member. He was always, even during his illnesses, making sure that he attended to his electorate. In this house he was very popular in his role as Acting Speaker; he was respected by members on all sides. He had authority and legitimacy, and people liked the way he performed that role. In one exchange in the house as Acting Speaker, Paul asked a member whether he would not mind either hurrying up or sitting down because he wanted to get home to a beautiful woman—he later assured the house that that woman was his wife! I must say that Paul gave me some advice as Treasurer that I regret I did not take. As I was trying hard to sell the notion that a very large surplus was a good thing for Western Australia, Paul advocated that we should divide the surplus by the number of people in Western Australia and send everyone a cheque. Regrettably, I did not take up that advice. It would have been very helpful at the 2008 election had I done so. I see that the whole national economic strategy has been built on Paul's advice, and it seems to be working very well. It is my loss that I did not take Paul's wise advice at that time.

Gim, I hope that you and your family know that Paul was very well respected and very well liked in this place. We all mourn his passing and we extend to you our deepest sympathies and condolences on this loss.

MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [2.11 pm]: I rise to support the Premier's condolence motion for Paul Andrews, who was a fine individual as well as a fine parliamentarian. On behalf of all National Party members of Parliament, I pay tribute to Paul's character, work ethic and dedication to his electorate of Southern River as well as to the broader Western Australian community. Paul was a great supporter and driver of organ donation awareness. A couple of years ago, as part of Organ Donor Awareness Week, Paul encouraged all National Party MPs to join the organ donor register. We all signed up happily, hoping that many others in the community would do the same. Above all, Paul was a terrific bloke and a family man.

Some other members and I had the great privilege of sharing a trip to China with Paul where he proved to be a great ambassador for the state of Western Australia and wonderful company with his great sense of humour. Paul did not know much about barley before that trip but after a few meetings with some agricultural people, he claimed to be an expert on our barley export industry and always said that he and I should go back one day and tell them all about barley.

Paul was an excellent sportsman in his younger days. He was always an excellent competitor in our annual press versus Parliament cricket match, even though his opening bowling was somewhat wayward. I mentioned earlier that Paul was a real family man. He always spoke to me so proudly of his wife, Gim, and children, Lara, Rebecca and Peter. To Paul's family and to his many close friends, we extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy. Our warm thoughts are with you all. It was an honour and a pleasure to have known Paul Andrews, MLA, a great bloke.

MS A.J.G. MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [2.13 pm]: We are all very sad to lose our good friend and former colleague Paul Andrews. I had the honour to be asked to speak at his funeral about his life in politics. I will repeat some of the remarks that I made there. Paul, ever the humorist, also had a joke from beyond the grave, where he had manoeuvred me into a position where I had to sing at his funeral. I cannot say that I considered that to be an honour but, as his daughter Lara pointed out to me, a promise is a promise and I had to do it. That displays the incredible character of Paul and that, even right to the end, he was there with life and spirit.

I came to know Paul and "Team Andrews", as we knew them, around 1994 through the Armadale branch of the Labor Party. Paul was part of a great Labor crew. We were in the trenches, fighting to win seats and to regain government at a federal and state level. Paul was a great supporting friend to Jane Gerick, the former member for Canning, Kay Hallahan and me. He was really moved by the Labor principle of equality of opportunity, from his personal experience and from his decades as an educator, which taught him the importance of this principle in creating a good and sustainable community.

Paul also loved the argy-bargy of the political process and he recognised that he had the skills to make a contribution as a member of Parliament. Paul knew that there would be no walk-up start and he took on two unwinnable federal campaigns, as was referred to earlier, before he had the opportunity to contest the winnable, but certainly not safe, seat of Southern River in 2000. There is a delusional illness in politics; we call it “candidates’ disease”, and a symptom of candidates’ disease is that the candidate is caught up in the optimism of the campaign and thinks that he can win an unwinnable election. There were people who thought that Paul, in his various contests for the federal electorate of Pearce, displayed the symptoms of this disease as he dragged his beautiful wife and children letterboxing through the streets of Northam and Chidlow every weekend. I used to threaten to dob him in to child welfare for this particular form of child abuse, but unfortunately I could never get the children to complain! Team Andrews loved him very much and indeed shared his values. However, Paul did not have candidates’ disease; he was always very realistic. He was simply out to show what he was prepared to do, the amount of effort that he was prepared to put in, and that he had the necessary skills and capacity for work to win a seat such as Southern River. Of course, he ultimately received his reward and won that seat. Paul, Martin Whitely and I were a very tight team in the south east corridor, and it was a very sweet night in February 2001 when we won all three seats and Labor took government.

It is important to stress that Paul actually loved representing his community and delivering for it. Projects such as the Gosnells town centre, which he convinced the previous government to fund, remain as monuments to his achievements. He particularly loved all the community associations and sporting clubs—the cricket clubs, the bowling clubs, the Sunday football league—and he recognised that he gave honour to those communities by attending all their functions and adding to the dignity of their events.

Paul also embraced Parliament; he loved Parliament, the practice and the history. It is fair to say—I am sure that this applies to members on both sides of politics—that many of us respect the institution but do not exactly look forward to coming back here; but Paul loved being here. He was Acting Speaker for seven and a half years and right from the beginning was a very tough and authoritative presiding officer who kept the troops in line. As a result of the way in which he conducted himself, and his general spirit, Paul was very well respected on both sides of the house and by the parliamentary staff.

I will not go on about the half-back line, because I am sure that there are plenty of people who can tell all the stories now that they can finally be told without fear of the libel laws! I will say that although they all were a touch anarchic, they were great team players and had the best fun together.

Paul loved committee work, and he ended up chairing—I should not say this—the dreaded Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, a committee that has the important but painful role of scrutinising the minutiae of government regulations. It is a committee that generally travels widely—in order to relieve the tedium of this task! It is true, as the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned, that Paul was proudest of the work he did for organ donation. It was in that area that he got to see that he had personally made a very big difference; I would like to say that he had moved out of the half-back line to kick a goal.

Paul was hit by illness during his last few years in Parliament, but he would take off only the smallest amount of time he could manage. He wanted to keep doing the job that he loved and he wanted to pull his weight. He was incredibly ill during the last election, but he did not tell anyone, and he battled on as hard as he could. Almost inevitably, as things occur in politics, it ended in a vale of tears, with Paul losing his seat and Labor losing government. One has to have been in politics to understand how tough that was, and how it was compounded for Paul by his illness and the financial need to find new employment. However, engulfed in the cone of love that came from Team Andrews, Paul was able to pull through emotionally and, unbelievably, he actually started teaching kids again. He started an almost new career, teaching children with learning difficulties, and created a new fan base in the process until illness stopped him from working at all.

It was really extraordinary to watch, over the past few months, Gim, Lara, Rebecca and Peter doing all they could in the most natural and loving way to make Paul comfortable and happy. He relished every moment he was with these beautiful people, and with his extended family—his nieces and nephews—and all his great friends, many of whom are here today. I add to the comments that have been made to Gim, Lara, Rebecca and Peter. We are so sorry for your loss, and we also thank you for that extraordinary support that you gave Paul all through those years; that practical, unconditional support that you gave him enabled him to be such a great member of Parliament.

MR M.P. WHITELEY (Bassendean) [2.21 pm]: I begin by acknowledging Paul’s family—Gim, Lara, Rebecca and Peter. Paul was extraordinarily proud of all of them. I spent four years sharing an office with Paul and four years sitting next to him in the chamber, and we spent a lot of time talking about how important his family was to him. I only understood part of why Paul’s family was so special to him until recent months, when he started to open up to me about some of his own history, and the fact that both of his parents had died by the time he was 19. For understandable reasons, that made Paul especially close to and proud of his own family.

All the family speakers at Paul's funeral spoke beautifully. There were fantastic contributions from everyone, but I was particularly struck by one comment from Gim, when she said that Paul was a complex man. I got to know some of that complexity. He was a combination of formality and irreverence. He had a fantastic sense of humour, but he loved the traditions and the formality of Parliament. He had a very self-effacing and wicked sense of humour. He was a man of great faith, but also a man of science and great intellect. In a sense, Paul was a conservative, but he was Labor to the core. All those complexities made Paul a very interesting character, and meant that he made a wonderful contribution to this Parliament.

Paul was quite a different character from me, which at least for me was something of an attraction, but we both have incredibly similar histories. We were both elected to former Liberal seats in 2001. We were both very proud to serve alongside the member for Armadale in the south east corridor. We had both previously run for unwinnable seats. Paul had run for three unwinnable seats, such was his determination to enter Parliament. We were both former teachers. We were both married to overseas-born nurses. Both of us, before we were elected, drove 1985 Falcon bombs. Both of us played Gaelic football and both of us had young families. That commonality drew us to each other, but Paul's complexity made him an interesting person to get to know. I came to respect his intellect and knowledge. He had one of the more incisive minds that I have encountered in the Parliament, and I came to value his judgement and advice. I remember him putting up that proposal for the boom bonus, as the Leader of the Opposition mentioned. It was slightly more complex than the Leader of the Opposition portrayed it, but I think the leader has finally got the politics right.

Paul was my closest friend and confidant in the Parliament, but politics is a brutal game. Gim, Rebecca, Lara and Peter will know what I am talking about. It tests friendships, and I am pleased to say that our friendship was tested and survived that test. Those who have been around for a while will know what I am talking about—that nasty action that was taken by the Electoral Commission when it drew some new lines on a map and suddenly my electorate disappeared. Then we had three Labor members for two winnable seats. Paul and I had something else in common—both our factions at the time planned for us to be the member for Southern River. My faction thought it would be a good idea for me to be the member, but there was already a good member for Southern River. There were two problems with the plan to make me the member for Southern River. Firstly, I was not going to do it. Southern River already had a very good member and there was no way I was going to do it. The second problem was that Paul was not terribly keen on the plan. After a few awful and awkward months, the problem was happily resolved. I was happily moved into Bassendean and Paul retained Southern River and continued his fantastic work there. We were able to continue what was for me a very important and deep friendship.

Paul made a considerable contribution to this Parliament. He was without peer as an Acting Speaker, probably because he actually knew what the standing orders were, unlike other members of the half-back line, who could not even find their standing orders. Me, the member for Albany, the member for Mindarie and the then member for Eyre shared the half-back line with Paul. It is fair to say that Paul was more of a student of the rules of this place than any of us has ever been. As an Acting Speaker, Paul had a fantastic authoritative manner, and that, together with his knowledge of the standing orders, meant that he rarely had to call any member to order. When Paul rose gently to his feet, with a stern expression on his face, everyone knew what that meant, and everyone would calm down and the place would come to order.

Paul made some real contributions on issues, particularly in the area of organ donation. He also made a fantastic contribution to committee work. Paul added an academic rigour to the processes of committees, because he was prepared to challenge, particularly in committees of inquiry, the evidence that was put before him and get to the truth of it. One instance that I remember in particular was when Paul and I were members of the Education and Health Standing Committee and were working on the ADHD inquiry. During that inquiry, Paul and I worked a bit of a good cop-bad cop routine, and Paul managed to draw out the complexities of the issues and challenge both academically and intellectually some of the arguments that were put to that committee.

Paul loved being a member of this place. I want to quote a few words from Paul's maiden speech that sum up his attitude to being here —

As I stand here tonight, my feeling is one of overwhelming elation at being in this place.

Paul felt very privileged to be here. I certainly feel very privileged to have served alongside him. It is a privilege to have had Paul as a friend.

MR J.J.M. BOWLER (Kalgoorlie) [2.26 pm]: As has been mentioned, I was a member of Geoff Gallop's half-back line in 2001. On the left half-back flank was the member for Mindarie, who was rarely there; he was always wandering around the place. Not far behind him, also on the left half-back line, was the member for Albany. On the far right—far more stable—was the then member for Southern River. Our real strength was on the far right, in Paul Andrews, whom we are talking about today. Paul was, as has been said, a very wise person. The friendship that I had with those five members on that half-back line is one that I will have all my life. The member for Mindarie is quite unique and talented. The member for Albany has won three un-winnables. The

member for Bassendean has achieved international fame in his fight to combat ADHD drug use. Yet Paul was the wisest of us all. If there was a problem or an issue, I would go to Paul. I believe the others in our group would do the same. Paul had a way of cutting through an issue with a word or a phrase. I remember that in the first few months of the 2001 Gallop Labor government, there were a lot of inexperienced ministers who were battling to control their ministries and had little time for the half-back line, and it was mentioned that the Premier had not come down to spend much time with us, and Paul said, "I feel like I'm playing in the B grade and the A-grade coach hasn't seen a game all year." That was a wonderful way of putting it. But, at the same time, Paul was as loyal as anyone could be to Geoff Gallop and the ministers.

Paul is the best Acting Speaker that we have had in my time in Parliament. His sense of presence in the chair gave to that position the dignity that it deserves. I think that, but for ill-health, he could have been the Speaker one day.

I am fiercely proud of my wife and my five sons. I have photos of my five sons everywhere—in my wallet, in my parliamentary office, in my electorate office and at my home. I love my family dearly. I doubt if anyone in the world loves their children as much as I do. Yet, without diminishing my commitment and my love for my children, I would have to say that Paul Andrews clearly loved his children more than I did. His love for his children was almost unbelievable. We would talk to him and we could feel it coming through. It came through in his maiden speech, when he cried more than all of us put together. His commitment to Gim and his children and his love for them were clearly on display every second of his life. Therefore, one of the proudest things I have done in my nine years as a member of this place so far was to organise a bit of a reunion a few weeks ago in the ministerial dining room where the class of 2001 plus the Clerk and a couple of other close friends had a luncheon. It was a farewell really—a farewell for a friend, a wonderful person, a person I will never forget and a person I was glad to call a friend.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Mindarie) [2.30 pm]: I rise to support the Premier's condolence motion for our late friend Paul Andrews. I came into the Parliament in 2001 with Paul and sat with Paul on what has been referred to during speeches this afternoon as the half-back line. There was a certain bonding on that half-back line, although we did not know each other initially. Paul, as we have heard this afternoon, had been the recipient of an organ transplant some years ago. I was very surprised at our first corporate love-in to get to know each other as a group when we played a sort of *Trivial Pursuit* and were asked questions such as, "Who amongst you was a fifth dan black belt and a former ironman?" I looked around the motley crew which was caucus and it had me completely flummoxed, until someone revealed that it was indeed the person Paul Andrews who sat with me on the half-back line. As a young man, therefore, he was a man of considerable strength and resolve. He came into the Parliament and soon endeared himself to both sides of the chamber through his integrity and fair dealing. Members have spoken of his authority in the chair. But those members who were not with us in those first two Parliaments—the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh Parliaments—would not remember that he achieved that authority, not through ever raising his voice or being cross with anyone, but through his presence and his sense of integrity.

When we were re-elected in 2005, I was particularly fortunate to be allocated a room with Paul at the northern end of the second floor, near the Aboriginal People's Room, and also allocated a seat in this chamber next to Paul. I say "fortunate"—good luck is a fortune, isn't it?—because it was not long after that that I was diagnosed with what was then considered to be a terminal cancer and admitted to a trial program that miraculously got me into remission. But, as members will recall, I had to travel to Melbourne every Sunday night for treatment and came back here as crook as a drover's dog! Up in that room Paul, who had suffered so much and had endured so much in his life, was just a bedrock of support for me, mainly with his black humour. I remember that when he was not feeling well, he would sit in a blue beanbag in our room, and after chemotherapy I would feel so crook that I would just collapse into it. I can remember him coming in and always calling me a cockroach and saying, "You look like a cockroach who has been drinking Mortein all night. Don't die in my beanbag or I won't feel comfortable lying on it." There was always this black humour that I think strengthened me whilst I was ill. I then started to come out of illness and then, sadly, saw Paul sliding into it; so I was out of the beanbag a bit more than he was back in it. But during that time I observed his dedication to his job and to his electorate. He would lie in that beanbag on the phone talking to his electorate office and making sure that all the little things that needed to happen in his community were attended to, notwithstanding his reduced circumstances of health.

Will anyone forget December 2007—I think it was—when he had had quite a serious operation on his ear? He returned to this chamber quite heavily bandaged, but he was not ever going to miss a day in this Parliament that physical incapacity did not absolutely debar. The member for Kalgoorlie mentioned the luncheon that we had only several weeks ago; it was just a magnificent display of both dignity and courage. Paul came from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, where he was ailing, and he had been dressed in a suit. He came along to that luncheon, which was his farewell luncheon at this Parliament. Throughout that luncheon, listening to all the speeches that were made, he conducted himself with such dignity and courage that it was just inspiring. I commented at the end that should I have half the dignity and half the courage in facing my death as Paul did

facing his, I will be regarded as quite a man. He was absolutely phenomenal. His last wish at that lunch in this Parliament was to be assisted from the luncheon room into your chair, Mr Speaker, so that a photograph could be taken before he returned to hospital, because he was so very, very proud of his role in this Parliament as an Acting Speaker.

It would be remiss of me, also, to not, on behalf of my wife and her family, express our support for the Premier's condolence motion, because whilst he worked at Lumen Christi College, Paul was my wife's teacher, my sister-in-law Erin's teacher, and my brother-in-law's teacher. They all speak of a man who was very, very widely respected on the college campus, once again, not through loudness or authoritarianism, but for his laconic manner, his wisdom and his ongoing support of all the students. With those words, I will resume my seat and commend the Premier's condolence motion to this chamber.

DR K.D. HAMES (Dawesville — Minister for Health) [2.36 pm]: I did not know Paul for as long as other members, because it was after my loss at the 2001 election that Paul entered Parliament. I did not get to know Paul until I got re-elected in 2005. In that we shared similar experiences: I lost twice before winning the third time, and we both, as it turned out, lost after around eight years. I can empathise with Paul and his family about that extremely traumatic time that, unfortunately, some of us get to experience.

But in those four years, I developed a very good relationship with Paul. He was one of those unusual members of Parliament who gets support, friendship and respect from both sides of the house. Most of us have what we call cautious friendships with people on the other side of this house, but Paul did not have to do any work at all. He was not especially friendly in the sense of going out to try to win friends from the other side; he just naturally accumulated people who respected him and his values and the way he spoke and conducted himself. That is the reason he had such strong support from both sides of the house. In fact, I think I could cautiously say that the person with whom he got on the least was actually from his own side of the house, not ours. He just received amazing respect from everybody.

I got to have a relationship with him on a different level because, as a doctor, he frequently discussed with me his renal transplant and his renal problems, and his skin cancer, and the problems those illnesses were causing him. Interestingly enough, when my colleagues and I were in opposition and developing our policy on transplants and organ donors, we got advice from him. I worked closely with him, putting together an acceptable policy for us, using the advice I got from him. Our organ donor policy was formulated with the help of an opposition member.

As Minister for Health and having been asked to nominate members to be on the federal government's organ donor committee and having nominated Paul, I was extremely disappointed that he was not accepted. In fact I told off Hon Nicola Roxon, federal Minister for Health and Ageing, saying, "Here he is; he's on your side; he's the best person we have to be on that committee." In the end I saw why he had not been chosen, because the other committee members were mostly physicians who had long years of experience in organ donor transplantation. But in my view, he would have been the best person on that committee because of his own personal experience, his extensive research, his extensive study of the issue, and his involvement in putting together policies. I think he would have been extremely valuable on that committee, but sadly he would not have been on it for all that long. It is an enormous shame not only that he did not get onto the committee, but that if he had, he would not have been there for a long time.

We would like to offer our sympathies to his family and we understand, as all of us do who have children, that tremendous bond of love and affection that he had for his children. To be sadly taken away so early in his life is something that must be extremely difficult for the family to cope with, and we offer them our deepest sympathy.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [2.40 pm]: I am the last of the Gallop's half-back line to speak this afternoon. I brought in our half-back line T-shirt today—I think I am the only person from that half-back line who can still fit into it! We had these T-shirts made up and there was a great photo in *The Sunday Times* of Geoff Gallop putting his shirt on, except that his stomach was hanging out. I have a copy of that photo in my office, which I will cherish forever. Being on the half-back line, I know how the new members in the area where we sat feel. When we came into Parliament, it was all new for us and we were called "the cabbage patch" and everything like that, I think by Matt Birney. We used to cop it all the time so we thought that we would get a bit of culture in—with Gallop's half-back line, no-one would get past us! As the member for Kalgoorlie said, we were a bit of a combined, rough sort of a group, but Paulie was the one who was the stabiliser. I used to interject a lot—not that I do now—and if I got out of hand, Paulie would be the one who would say, "Watto! That's enough." It was like listening to a schoolteacher: I would just shut up, especially when Paulie was in the chair. There were pretty fiery times, late nights and things like that, but Paul would just stand and that was it—everyone would simply shut up and Parliament would go on.

Paulie loved the Parliament. He would sit in this place day in, day out, even during the all-nighters, because he just loved the process of Parliament. I can still remember Paulie's speech about organ donation. Was that the speech the member for Bassendean helped him with when he was —

Mr M.P. Whitely: The 90-second.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It was the 90-second statement when Paulie was talking about organ donations; he was so emotional that he could not get it out.

He loved his family. I got into trouble one day because, as often happens on the half-back line, my mind started to wander, and I was not concentrating on what was going on. Paul said, "Have a look at this photo in this magazine." I said, "She looks really nice" and he belted me over the ear and said, "That's my daughter!" As the member for Mindarie said, Paulie just had this wicked sense of humour. I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for organising the opportunity for us to say goodbye to Paulie. Paulie was very sick when he came here and it was great to see all the people who came—the Clerk and people from both sides of the house; people from 2001. Matt Birney and I think Jamie Edwards were there. The respect that people from both sides of the house had for Paulie was shown on that day.

I hope that when I leave Parliament, I have the same respect of both sides of the house and of the staff that Paulie had. Gim, Peter, Lara and Rebecca, you are his legacy and you will live on and we will see him as you live on in the future. I would like to say: Paulie, we are going to miss you, mate. I give my great condolences to Gim and the family.

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Leader of the House) [2.44 pm]: I would like to add my personal condolences to the motion today. I like to think that Paul and I were friends, not just colleagues in this house. It is not very common that members on opposite sides of the house feel such a kinship with each other, and I think not only I, but also every other member on this side of the house had that feeling about Paul. Paul and I shared an outside interest—outside politics and outside of Parliament—and we would very often talk about that outside interest, which he was very, very keen on.

Paul was a person who I think was one of the fairest people in Parliament; he never had a bad word to say about anybody, which is very rare in this place, I have to say. I had the privilege of serving on the Procedure and Privileges Committee with Paul for a period of four years, and during that time we had to carry out some very, very difficult inquiries that were to a great extent unprecedented in this Parliament. I must say that Paul was one of the fairest people on that committee, and I think Paul did his job in a very diligent and a very fair way. He certainly earned my respect, not just in that forum, but also in many other ways.

It has been said that Paul was an extremely good Acting Speaker. I would go further than that and say that he was one of the best Acting Speakers I have seen in the 17 years that I have been in this house. He was totally unbiased. He would pull up his own members, sometimes more often than he would pull up opposition members. He had a presence in the chair. It was not just his stature; it was the inner self of Paul Andrews. I think it has been mentioned that if there was a problem in the house and members were making too much noise, interjecting or being rude to one another, which often happens, all Paul would do was simply stand and look around, and everybody just went quiet. He did not have to call anybody to order. He never threw anybody out of the house. I do not believe he ever called anybody to order for a first, second or third time. He had a presence in the chair that commanded respect. The reason he was shown that respect was that he was respected for being, I suggest, one of the best Acting Speakers we have ever had. He was one of the fairest and most unbiased people we have had in the chair as Acting Speaker. When somebody behaves in that way, he gets the respect of every member.

Paul was a great person to talk with. I know for a fact that he did not always agree with some of the things that the Labor Party did at the time, and he would express his concerns to me confidentially in the courtyard of Parliament House. Conversations that take place in the courtyard are never repeated in this place, and I would never break that confidence. Paul conducted himself with enormous integrity in every aspect of his political and parliamentary career, and I think that is another reason he was shown so much respect by everybody. He was a fair person who wanted to do the best job possible not only in this house, but also in his electorate. I know that he felt that way because we often spoke about his electorate, the concerns he had for the area and the way he tried to help people. Paul always tried to help people.

We were members of the Procedure and Privileges Committee for a very tough four years. Apart from the inquiries the committee carried out, there were a lot of extremely interesting and essential matters that the committee had to deal with. Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, the former Speaker who was chair of that committee was not the most generous person in the world when it came to allowing the committee to take trips around Australia or even abroad. Paul and I sometimes suggested that we could learn and benefit a lot if we went somewhere. Paul had the benefit of travelling to China and I know he enjoyed it very much. Unfortunately, the former Speaker was not of a mind to allow his committee to travel, so Paul and I were members of a travel-less committee for four years, which was a great disappointment to Paul and me and, indeed, other members of the committee. Notwithstanding that, we did the job we had to do. Paul did a wonderful job on that committee. He gave all matters that came before the committee a fair hearing. He did not express a party political point of view; he expressed a committee member's position.

We have always said in this house that working on a committee is probably one of the best things that a member who is not a minister can do, because members make friends even with people on the opposite side of the house and with different political beliefs. When members are on a committee, they work as a unique entity and politics very rarely comes into play. Members tend to make friends and learn more about their colleagues in Parliament, and they can go forward with that. I suggest that that happened with Paul and me, as it would, I suggest, with every member of Parliament who serves on a committee. Paul was not only a great member of this Parliament and a great Acting Speaker; in simple terms, he was just a good bloke. I pass on my sincere condolences to all of Paul's family.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham) [2.49 pm]: I, too, pass on my regards to Paul's family who are in the Speaker's gallery today. As members have said, he was a great family man, and his family are here today. He always spoke very highly of his family and was very proud of his family. He was also a fine parliamentarian. Paul understood the Parliament. He was not an attacking person in Parliament. He was not one who raised his voice. He was not one who threw around accusations. He was not someone who was aggressively partisan in the Parliament. But he was considered.

Paul used to sit on the corner over there in the Gallop and Carpenter governments. Paul was always present in the Parliament and listened to debates. When he made a contribution, his contribution was considered about whatever issues were in question. He did not provoke interjection from the other side. He did not provoke hostility. He did not provoke any sort of disagreement. He normally provoked nodding from people around the Parliament about what he was saying. It was a lesson to me that Paul engendered respect in the house by his demeanour and by his actions.

As members have said, Paul was a very good Acting Speaker—he would rise to his feet and not say a word. Often Speakers yell and try to get control of the house by the loudness of their voice. He took the opposite approach. He took the approach of gaining control by saying nothing. It was amazing how quickly silence arrived through the approach of saying nothing. He just looked around the Parliament and, suddenly, control would be restored. He was good at it.

Paul appreciated being a member of Parliament—people do not always. He understood the whole idea of being elected by 30 000 of his peers. Representing his constituents in the Parliament was a great privilege and a great honour. In professional terms, I do not think I would be wrong in saying that he thought the highlight of his professional career was walking into this room and being a part of this place.

It would be fair to say that it was not a good experience for Paul to be defeated in the last election. He was only just defeated. But that was not a reflection on him, and I told him so at a meeting I had with him subsequent to the election. It was one of those things that sometimes happen. Political careers end, and that sometimes comes about unexpectedly. That was one of the things that happened. Post the last election, Paul expressed to me a desire to come back at some future point. He so enjoyed, understood and respected the role that he played in this place that he was keen to come back, but, unfortunately, that did not happen.

Members have reflected upon Paul's contribution to the issue of organ donation. Paul took up an issue that was important to him through personal experience. Through taking up that issue, he made a lot of lives better. He actually saved people's lives in Western Australia. Not many of us, if any, can say that. Through Paul's personal commitment to an issue, he saved the lives of people who have suffered. That is an attribute that his family will be able to live on with—that is, the knowledge that other people have lived because of the cause that Paul took forward.

Paul was good at sport. I did not know about his Gaelic football experiences that other members have referred to, but I knew he was good at taekwondo! One day in the courtyard he performed a karate kick at my head, and missed by only a couple of inches, to demonstrate to me his prowess in that field! I found it somewhat frightening because, whilst a large man, he moved with extraordinary speed and his foot flashed past my face—with his shoe on, I might add. If it had connected, it would not have been good! He had a prowess in sport that I did not realise until that moment, and I did not know about the Gaelic football contribution. Paul was obviously interested in and good at sport.

He also had a great interest in racing and trotting. He was one of the most prominent supporters of trotting in Western Australia. I went to the trots with him a few times. He knew everything. He knew all the personalities, he knew all the horses, he knew the drivers—he knew everything about it. He was a great advocate for that industry. I am sure that they also respect his contribution in that regard.

Paul's health was a sad business. I used to go to him some days when he sat opposite and say, "Hello, how are you today?" He used to say to me, "I am terrible." I would ask why he did not go home, and he would say, "I've got a role to play. I have got to do my job." He would remain in the Parliament but sound terrible. I asked him

how bad he was, and he said, "If you can think of the worst hangover you have ever had, that is what I am going through." He said, "It is day in, day out." Yet he would come in to this place, participate, play his role and take part in debates. He would often tell me that he had been outside throwing up. It was hard and unfair. Paul had a very unfair row to hoe for many years. I know that Gim donated a kidney to Paul, which was a demonstration of the love between them. As I say, he had a hard row to hoe, and I do not know how he did it, to be frank. Most people would never have gone as far and fought for their life as long as Paul did, but he obviously loved his life and his career and, more than that, he loved his family. From me and my family, may I pass on to Paul's family our respect and regard for what he has done, and I thank them for giving him to us.

MR A.P. O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [2.57 pm]: I came into Parliament in 2001, at the same time as Paul Andrews. Shane Hill and I used to sit at the back behind the half-back line. We started calling Paul "Big Paulie" because he was quite an impressive size of a man. When he stood from the Speaker's chair to get control in this chamber, I think every member recognised how big a man he was, not only in stature but also in character. We saw that when he made his maiden speech. He was brought to tears, as were many members in this house. I think that was showing us what was to come during his time in this place.

Most of us come into this place with the impression that we are going to make a difference. I think "Big Paulie" made a big difference. He made a difference right across Western Australia to people's attitudes towards transplants. He made a difference for me when he introduced me to the Transplant Australia people, who happened to operate quite extensively in my electorate. I met people from infants to very senior citizens who had transplants at various times. He impressed upon me the urgency of getting legislation through this place to make transplants much easier. We all know Jim McGinty. He is not the easiest man to convince of something, but "Big Paulie" convinced Jim McGinty that this was the way to go. Jim McGinty pushed legislation through this house with Paul right at his back pushing him all the way, making sure that it got through.

Paul also had a number of other colleagues who came into this place at the same time as he did. I have spoken to some of them in recent days. They have asked me to make comments on their behalf. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I hope I will be permitted to do that. Dianne Guise, the former Deputy Speaker, wanted just to say how much she valued Paul for his role as Acting Speaker. As we have heard today, he was a stickler for the protocols and procedures of Parliament. She said that she particularly enjoyed working with him on the Procedure and Privileges Committee. She said that people could always rely on Paul to be fair and that they could always have a chat with him about any problems they were having in their own life.

Shane Hill is another great fan of "Big Paulie". He said that he was a great mate and that they had done many campaigns together in Pearce and Avon, as we heard earlier. Shane related to me this morning the time they were out doorknocking in Pearce. Both of them rocked up to a house with a fairly long, meandering pathway to its front door. As they put their hand on the gate a dog came charging out. That was the end of that doorknocking for them. They took off fairly quickly! Members know that quite often ministers visit regional electorates and make the front page of the local newspaper. Shane said that Paul was one of the few backbenchers who would make the front page. When Paul visited Geraldton, he would take up the whole of the front page of *The Geraldton Guardian*, again talking about transplants and making sure that people were aware of transplants and organ donation.

Judy Hughes has spoken to me—she is now travelling around South America. She had great respect for Paul. Like me, Judy was an Acting Speaker and both of us, at different times when we were coming into the role of Acting Speaker, sat with Paul and asked how we were going to control a bunch of egotistical politicians who thought their view was the only view. He said, "You don't have to do anything. The chair does it all. You stand up, be quiet, and they will shut up. You don't have to shout; the chair has the power." That is the way Paulie put it across to us.

Personally, Paulie and I had similar families. We each have two daughters and a son, and many a time we sat in the chamber discussing our children and what they were doing with their lives—going through university, the part-time jobs they had et cetera. I often heard about the girls working in the pizza shop and running that business for the gentleman who owned it.

Paulie was a great inspiration to all of us in this place. I am proud to have served with him and to have been advised by Paul on many aspects. He was a great man, and we should never forget him.

DR G.G. JACOBS (Eyre — Minister for Water) [3.01 pm]: I support this condolence motion, and on a personal note tell the house what a privilege it was to have known Paul Andrews. I think that the best way to describe Paul is that he was a lovely man. I came into politics, in opposition, in 2005, and I first met Paul when he was on the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. Other than the rapport that we immediately established, he provided very wise, considered and balanced advice, and, as many people have described today, this advice was provided not along party lines but through personal rapport.

The lesson for me, particularly, was the man's resilience and his resolve. Very clearly there were times that he was clearly very unwell, and under those circumstances he carried on. Like the Minister for Health, I was privileged to share some of Paul's intimate medical details and experiences, as described by the Minister for Health, and that has been a great lesson for me. I think we are all better people for knowing Paul. I certainly am, through the experiences that I have had with Paul. Both Kathryn and I send Gim and Paul's family our condolences, and say thank you very much for sharing him with us.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Preston) [3.03 pm]: I also rise to support the condolence motion. Like many others in this place I met Paul for the first time when he came to Parliament. I was running a week late coming into this place as votes were still being counted in my electorate, and one of the first people to say "Settle down, you'll be right" was Paul. I certainly needed that. I asked him many times for guidance along the way. He was a steady sort of bloke, but a very strong person underneath. I do not think many in here would forget the emotional maiden speech in which he thanked the many people who had given him life at that time to be able to carry on after his transplant. His speech really stuck in my mind and I have since thought about the issue of donors and how we go about pursuing that line.

Over the years, as we got to know each other—we also travelled a couple of times together—we talked about our families. He was very proud of his family, which has been mentioned by other members. I learnt how his son had been bowling down the leg side instead of directly to the wicket. We also had secret men's business, with me having four daughters and Paul having two. We talked about the blokes who did not knock on the door and those who did. In the end it was decided between us that it was easier to let them come through the front door than chasing them over the back fence. That demonstrates Paul's attitude. It was with huge pride that he spoke about his children and his wife.

We often talk about somebody having a presence. Paul definitely had a presence when we visited China with Alan Carpenter. We went to look at the Great Wall and I am sure that on that day everybody in China was there. The temperature was about 40 degrees and we walked with Gim up the great big hill and to the turrets, through which we barely fitted, and then we decided it was time to go down the hill. I come back to some people having a presence—here was Paul, a large man amongst the Chinese, with his shirt undone walking straight down the middle. We actually thought he might die then because it was so hot, but, rightly or wrongly, he was going to complete that walk. All that Gim and I were worried about was that if he fell over who would pick him up. To see Paul achieve what he wanted to do that day demonstrates the mark of the man. He went to the top and walked all the way down. He achieved what he wanted to do, and that is exactly what Paul did throughout his life. Talking about achievements, one of Paul's achievements was becoming a politician. He played football at a high level, including in the south west for Harvey-Brunswick.

Paul grew up with his family and gave people advice, and that says a lot about him. I could quite easily mouth the words, but I mean it with all sincerity that he was a great bloke. Paul took time out to give people the time of the day. Members know that in this game we have bad and good days. Paul could pick when a person was having a bad day and it was no big deal for him to wander up and say, "How's it going?" The person would have a whinge and when Paul felt that that person was feeling better, he would leave. He had done his job for the day without imposing on that person. That is the presence that Paul had here. His presence will be felt for some time because of that. We always compare politicians, Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Acting Speakers and Paul's names will always come up as a politician we hold in high esteem.

To Paul's family and his children, my sincere condolences. It was my pleasure to have known him, and his legacy will live on not only in his family but also in this house. I support the motion.

MRS C.A. MARTIN (Kimberley) [3.08 pm]: I add my comments to the motion, which I support. When I first met him Paul looked at me and said, "Trouble". I do not know why. From that day until the last day I saw him he called me Carol Anne. The only person who had ever called me Carol Anne previously was my father and that was just before I copped one from him. I do not know where his comment came from, but that is what he said.

When we were travelling on a committee he would tell me what to do. He knew what the job entailed, but I did not. Paul was great in the way he looked after me. I acknowledge that it was in his interests to do that because if I mucked it up he would wear it as well. We went to Melbourne looking into the roles and responsibilities of people in the health service. As always, on this particular occasion Paulie was walking behind me. I had a really bad hair day, which sometimes happens. The wind came up as I was standing on the kerb and my hair immediately covered my face. I thought I would get my hair out of my face as I was about to take a step off the kerb. I felt myself being lifted off the ground and placed onto the bitumen just as a truck missed me. Paul said, "You owe me one", and I did. Actually, I owed him a lot. On so many occasions his presence provided for me a haven—just his being there. He had a sixth sense. If something was not right with me, he would know and he would talk to me about it. He would say, "What's going on?" Of course I would tell him and he would scratch his head and say, "It's okay, this will work." He did things for me that were amazing. For example, he

introduced me to a group in his electorate he was working with and said, "Please don't go back this weekend; I want you to meet these people." When I asked him why, he said, "They're Aboriginal people. I said, "Look, I'm not the member for Aboriginals." He said, "Hey, whoa, I want you to meet these people; will you do it?" So I went with him and found that those people were my relatives. I had not known who they were. That was the sort of thing he would do because he thought it was the right thing to do. It was just amazing. These people were running the Noongar Patrol and I had not seen some of them since I was very small.

That was the sort of thing Paulie would do. Sometimes when he was in the chair at, say, three o'clock in the morning, I would be arcing up because at that hour we get a bit testy and a bit bored. After taking the cricket bat and ball from the boys outside and coming back into the chamber—they were trying to take it from me again—I decided to arc up to keep them occupied. Paulie stood up and everything just went silent, as it does. Of course I was still arcing up and he said, "Member for Kimberley, please do not force me to eject the first Indigenous woman elected to an Australian Parliament, while I'm in the chair; I don't want to be known for that." He is not, and will never be known for anything like that. He never ejected anyone; he was one of the great statesmen of this place. People who knew him knew his humour and knew that he cared. He knew his job. There were some among us he protected a little more than others. As I said, he did save my life. Thank you, "Bowls", for allowing us to say goodbye while Paulie was still with us and, Gim, thank you for sharing him with us.

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [3.11 pm]: I also support the Premier's condolence motion. Of all the people who have spoken, I guess I am the one who has known Paul for the shortest period. I first met him during the election campaign last year and I found him to be very gracious and a real gentleman. We spoke only briefly but he struck me as a person of depth and integrity. As I campaigned during the election for the seat of Southern River, what struck me was that anyone who Paul had done anything for or with spoke extremely positively and highly of him. During the election campaign I did not hear one negative word spoken about him by any of his constituents. I did not bump into him very much at all during the election campaign, but when I contacted Paul after the election to extend my condolences on losing his seat, he was extremely gracious about it and said, "Look, I won this seat from Monica Holmes. I have had two terms and really enjoyed my time in Parliament; I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did." From what others have said, that is perhaps a reflection of the kind of person he was. I think the quality of the man has been attested to by many who knew him far better than I did. I wanted to rise on behalf of the electorate of Southern River—albeit the electorate is different from the one Paul served because the boundaries have changed significantly—and put on the record our condolences. To Gim-Hoon and the children, we extend our sympathy and God's blessing for the future.

MR T.G. STEPHENS (Pilbara) [3.13 pm]: To Gim, Lara, Rebecca and Peter, the condolence motions in this Parliament are generally fairly short, but already this motion has taken much longer than is the shared experience of most of us. I suppose, in part, it is a testimony to the warm feelings that all of us have for Paul. As has been mentioned, he arrived in this place in 2001 with that large group of new Labor members. When he arrived I was leader of the upper house and we were looking at who would be in the new ministry. For me, the arrival of that large batch of members in this place was a bit of a puzzle. It was not a puzzle just for me, but even for our then leader, Geoff Gallop. Amongst the members of the 2001 class there was Tony O'Gorman, Tony Dean and Tony McRae, and most of us, in a shorthand way, used to refer to the new members as one of the Tonys. Paul used to take great exception to the fact that we had not really got to distinguish this new group of colleagues who had arrived. At one stage I remember the Premier referring to Paul as Tony, and Paul said, "He hasn't even got my name right!" It was not a mistake that lasted for very long. Paul distinguished himself and his personality in that class very quickly.

In my job, I have noticed that in various parts of the state people introduce themselves to me as former students of Paul from Lumen Christi College, and they speak of him with enormous affection in that role. I am not used to people singing the praises of their schoolteachers. It is not something that I have ever been greatly driven to do. But many of his students seem to have wanted to come out and introduce themselves as students of Paul, for whom they had great affection.

As we know, Paul was a great values MP. He was a man who was driven by values. That was evidenced in his maiden speech and in many of his other speeches. In the part of his maiden speech that I have just been reminding myself about are those words that he used to talk about family, and his observations of his electorate and his concerns for an electorate in which there was not on display the connection of parents, in particular fathers, with their families and particularly with their children. When we attended the church service for Paul, I learnt more about the explanation for that and exactly the sort of gap that he must have felt in his own life, and why he was able to observe how much of a challenge that is for communities that are stripped of fathers. I sense that in Paul's own political contribution, he made sure that a value was placed on ensuring that families were able to find time to be with one another, as he did in his own life, which is testimony to the strength that has been on display in this family during this period.

That church service at Mt Claremont was, for me, a bit of an eye-opener for a number of reasons, one of which was clearly the guiding hands behind it. In that service, a few of us could not help but notice the selection of the last hymn. Paul's coffin was carried out of the church to a hymn that resonates for people with that faith connection that Paul had—that is, the hymn called *Faith of Our Fathers*. It is an amazing battle cry of people of the Catholic faith. To have selected that hymn for when the coffin was being carried out of the church was quite extraordinary. I was refreshing my memory of the one verse that, for me, had more resonance for Paul than most of the others did. It is —

Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.

The hymn is about many other things also, but it is about that, and Paul was certainly a person whose life, with friend and foe, displayed love and virtue that are unsurpassed.

MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth) [3.18 pm]: I rise to speak in support of the condolence motion for Paul Andrews. I was elected to this place in 2005. I had not met Paul Andrews until then. When I came in, my party was in opposition and the Gallop government was in power. Paul was a backbencher. As we are finding now, when a member's party is in government, backbenchers do not get to say much. However, we were on the other side in opposition, doing our best to unravel the government and find flaws in the legislation that was coming through.

The one thing I noticed about Paul Andrews was that whenever he got up to speak—he and Bob Kucera often spoke on legislation; Paul used to sit over there—he spoke from experience. He was very measured and he sometimes had the ability to convince members that the government's legislation was not as bad as we thought it was and that the world would not come to an end because of it. He had the ability to do that without raising his voice. As someone said earlier, he did not attract interjections because he spoke in a very measured way. I often had conversations with Paul outside the chamber. We talked about legislation and what was happening in the world, among other things. I found him to be not only a very knowledgeable person, but also, as has been pointed out, someone who spoke with the voice of reason.

I used to see Paul and Gim at the racing industry functions that were held when the member for Rockingham was the Minister for Racing. The minister could not attend all the functions and he sent Paul along as his representative. Paul delighted to go along. As the member for Rockingham said earlier, Paul was a great advocate for the racing industry and for the harness racing industry in particular. When there was the threat of Betfair coming to Western Australia, which looked like it would have a huge impact on the racing industry, Paul spoke at length in the debate on that legislation because he cared for the people who were involved in the sport. He had a human side to him. He understood that that issue was about people's livelihoods. I could tell from reading his maiden speech that he was concerned about the people in his community who were doing it tough. That was a mark of the person. When the member for Rockingham had moved on to higher office and taken on other portfolios, Paul lost the gig of going to the trotting shows and on a couple of occasions he expressed to me that he missed representing the government at the racing industry functions.

Paul was a decent person and an outstanding member of Parliament. As has been said by other members in this place, he really appreciated the role that Parliament plays. He was very proud of the processes and procedures of Parliament. When he was in the chair as Acting Speaker, he was very mindful of the fact that this house had to be run properly under the standing orders. Most members understood that. When he was in the chair this place was a lot more orderly than it was when other Acting Speakers were in the chair. On behalf of my wife, Karen, I extend our sympathies and condolences to Gim and Paul's three children. He was an outstanding person.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [3.23 pm]: I join with members to speak on the condolence motion for Paul Andrews on behalf of not only myself, but also my wife, Hon Kate Doust. I did not serve in Parliament with Paul, but my wife did. It is important to go back to 1985 when my wife, Kate, first met Gim and Paul through a mutual friend, Kim Chegwidan. Kim and Paul were teachers at St Norbert College in Queens Park. I also pass on to Paul's family the condolences of Desirée Grzenda-Day, who is the principal of St Norbert College. I spoke to her on Thursday about Paul's passing. Kate got to know Paul and Gim very well because Kim and Kate were friends sharing a house while Paul and Kim were teaching. Paul was a regular guest at their place and they got to know him and his wife and family very well.

I first became friends with Paul in the mid-1990s when my mother was experiencing kidney failure. I talked to Paul on a number of occasions. Right until Paul's passing, one of the things that he and I would talk about was that shared family experience. Fortunately for me, I was not affected directly.

I want to retell the tale of what happened when Paul ran for the seat of Pearce in 1988. As a number of members have commented, Paul was prepared to take on the hard jobs of running for seats that the Labor Party did not

have any expectation of winning. As the assistant state secretary, I worked with Paul on that campaign. Paul was the sort of guy who could get a small group of people together to do amazing things. I particularly note the involvement of Hon Nick Griffiths, who was the leader of that little team, and Phil Kelly. I will not retell the whole tale because it is probably better done over a beer in the bar than in Parliament. Paul picked up two nicknames during that campaign: one was “Pretty Boy” and the other one I am not going to use. It was a real mark of the man that he was able to work so hard. He got no reward for the work he was doing. He was doing it because he loved the Australian Labor Party and he was committed to public service. I was very happy to help Paul with his preselection in 2000 and with his election campaign in 2001. He was a good friend of people that I consider friends in the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA. I know that the secretary of the SDA, Joe Bullock, was a huge supporter of Paul. I also know how much Joe and the shop assistants’ union felt the loss of Paul both to this Parliament and now to this world.

Paul’s work as an MP has been well recorded by others who shared his experiences, which I was not privileged to do. I will not go into that. As state secretary, I was very pleased to help Paul with his preselection in 2005.

On behalf of my family and I, I want to say how sad we are at his passing. I close by saying how pleased Kate was to be able to catch up with Paul, Gim and their family so recently with other people from St Norbert from times past and from university days. I know that it meant a great deal to Kate, and I trust that it also meant a great deal to Paul.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland) [3.28 pm]: It is quite clear at this stage of the condolence debate that Paul Andrews was a most impressive man who had a remarkable impact on the lives of people around him. “Impressive” was the adjective used when I first heard of Paul in about 1994 or 1995 when Paul had a Chinese meal with the late Jack Marks, amongst other people. Jack commented to me that he had met a most impressive man whose name was Paul Andrews. I think he also met Gim at this dinner. He said, “He is someone whom the Labor Party should be picking up and recruiting into Parliament. He is one of us, he is someone of enormous talent, someone with a deep commitment to justice and someone with a huge social conscience and a sense of fairness. He holds very similar values to us and he could make a great contribution to Parliament on behalf of the Labor Party.” After that, Paul nominated to be our candidate for Pearce in 1996, a task that he took on again in 1998. I had the opportunity of working with Paul, along with former President of the Legislative Council Hon Nick Griffiths, Lyn Jager, Shane Hill and others on those two campaigns for Pearce. Paul was relentless in that task, as other members have said, without much prospect of winning the seat, and certainly without any prospect of advantaging himself. Nonetheless, he committed himself to that task and he committed his family to that task. He also committed himself and his family to the task of assisting me win the seat of Midland in December 1996 between those two Pearce campaigns. I again got to enjoy Paul’s company, and he was again relentless in the task of assisting me to be elected to the seat of Midland.

Paul Andrews had an enormous sense of social justice and fairness. He was a highly principled person, with high moral standards, but unlike some people who are highly principled and have high moral standards, he was not judgemental. He maintained a very strong sense of humour. The style of humour most often employed by Paul was very much self-deprecating; although there may have been some message or point, his humour was often directed at himself; Paul would often make fun of himself or make some self-deprecating remark. I will always remember Paul Andrews as a good and decent man who had an enormous impact on my life, the lives of his family members, members of Parliament and members of the community.

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn) [3.31 pm]: I rise to give my support to the Premier’s condolence motion. I also pass on condolences to Gim, Lara, Peter and Rebecca from me, my wife, Vivienne, and from Alex and Henry.

We have heard from various members about how much Paul loved the parliamentary process, and he truly did; he talked about it often. He was a great contributor to debate because he was clear, concise, fluent and logical in his comments, and all members who remember his contributions to debate would agree with that assessment. I think his greatest speech was the one he gave on the organ donation legislation. It was a brilliant speech—one of the best speeches given by any parliamentarian in any debate in this house, because it obviously came from the heart and from his knowledge of the trauma and tribulations involved in undergoing the organ transplant process.

Paul was an avid defender of the Westminster system. A highlight of his parliamentary career was the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association trip to Westminster, about which he talked at length after coming back from London. For him, that was one of the highlights of his career as a parliamentarian.

On a lighter note, another love of Paul’s was food! Paul loved food, and he loved afternoon tea. As you know, Mr Speaker, afternoon tea is a very dangerous affair, because it tends to go straight to the waistline. Despite chiding Paul on many occasions and saying, “Look, mate, you’d better go easy there”, he would reply, “Yeah, I know—but I really love food!” He just could not stop himself, and as Gim knows, he stacked on a bit of weight after a time! That changed Paul’s physical shape and contributed to his practising taekwondo in the courtyard of Parliament, as mentioned by the member for Rockingham. If the member for Rockingham remembers correctly,

we were one day all sitting around teasing Paul because he had grown a bit bigger after several months as a member of Parliament. When he tried to convince us that he was a black belt in taekwondo, many of us did not believe him—until he performed a taekwondo move and nearly hit the head of the member for Rockingham. Of course, everyone sitting around the table was hoping that he would hit the member for Rockingham, simply to see what it looked like! Goodness me, a taekwondo specialist!

We have also heard that he was a man of learning, a teacher, and that he had an interest in science. As a parliamentary secretary, I had responsibility for carriage of the Gene Technology Bill, and that was fairly complex legislation simply because of its technical aspects. I could not really get anyone to help me speak on the bill because no-one really had a great deal of interest in gene technology or a willingness to support me, except Paul. Paul said, “Yeah, sure; I’ll speak with you on this bill.” He did an amazing amount of research on the science behind the gene technology revolution, particularly as it applies to plants and animals, which is what the bill dealt with. He spoke on the bill with incredible knowledge and great capacity, after a very short period in which to carry out his research. It was a real example of his ability to undertake significant research in a complex area, absorb the information and deliver it in the house. In that respect he was a fantastic parliamentarian.

The other point about Paul that I have been asked to highlight is his impersonation of Geoff Gallop! I do not know whether any members on the other side got to see his impersonation of Geoff Gallop, but it was fantastic—not to the point that we actually thought he was the Premier, but it was certainly a reflection of his sense of humour. He was a great guy and he had a great sense of humour.

Other members have already reflected on his stoicism and courage. He continued to come to Parliament when he was very, very unwell. He knew he was unwell, as did all members, but we all admired his unbelievable courage and determination to carry on in his role as a parliamentarian by just turning up every day that Parliament was sitting and contributing to debate. He really was a man of great courage and someone to be admired. I know that Gim and Paul’s family will miss him terribly; we will miss him terribly, too. He was a great man and a great parliamentarian.

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Minister for Planning) [3.38 pm]: I will make some brief comments about the late Paul Andrews from my fairly limited but memorable experience. There have been many references to Paul having been a very decent, proper and fair man, and although I only knew him since he was elected to Parliament in 2001, that was also my observation of him.

I will refer to one incident in particular to demonstrate Paul’s qualities. I recall that when he was performing the role of Acting Speaker in 2001—maybe 2002—he made a ruling that affected me in some way; he probably stopped me from speaking, or did not give me the call. I do not remember the specific details, but my particular recollection is that he rang me at my electorate office the following Friday to express his regret and to apologise for the decision he made on that occasion. It was not at all a major issue and it had not crossed my mind any further, but his actions in calling me at my electorate office in Kalamunda the following Friday certainly indicated that he was someone with a great sense of fairness and propriety, and that he was very keen to ensure that he did the right thing in all circumstances. That is a particular memory of Paul that I have, and I think it demonstrates what many other members have expressed in other ways.

I extend my condolences to Paul’s family. All his family can be very proud of the contribution he made to public life and the community of Western Australia.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro) [3.40 pm]: I rise to support the Premier’s condolence motion in memory of Paul Andrews, our departed colleague. In talking about Paul in recent times and in listening to this debate today, I have come to feel very much as though I was robbed of the opportunity to get to know him better, and to benefit from his wisdom and friendship as much as many others in this place have. I envy the collegiate feeling and sense of camaraderie expressed and felt by those who have had the opportunity to enter this place as a group, particularly those who entered this place as a group in the company of Paul Andrews. Coming into this place in 2007 in a by-election was in some respects a lonely experience, and those who have entered this place through by-elections would understand what I mean. We do not have that opportunity to share the new experience and the challenges associated with entering Parliament for the first time with others who are going through the same experience. I say to Gim and Paul’s family that one of the people who went out of his way to extend the hand of friendship, advice and a friendly ear on many occasions was Paul Andrews. Until today’s debate I knew that we were both south west boys and grew up across the river from each other, but I did not know that we also both played for Harvey-Brunswick, that fine south west football club. I knew that we both went to Bunbury Senior High School, although about a decade apart. He was a friendly, honourable and mature presence in this place. Clearly we will all miss him, but nowhere near as much as his family will. I extend to them my condolences, and those of my wife, Gillian, and our two little boys, who met Paul, and thank them for sharing him with us.

The SPEAKER: I ask members to rise and support this motion by observing a minute’s silence.

Question passed, members standing.

CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION — “REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED PUBLIC SECTOR MISCONDUCT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF LOBBYISTS AND OTHER PERSONS — A MINISTERIAL DECISION IN RELATION TO APPLICATIONS FOR A MINING TENEMENT AT YEELIRRIE”

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Leader of the House) [3.44 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the following motion to be moved forthwith —

That the Corruption and Crime Commission “Report on the Investigation of Alleged Public Sector Misconduct in Connection with the Activities of Lobbyists and Other Persons: A Ministerial Decision in Relation to Applications for a Mining Tenement at Yeelirrie”, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, 16 November 2009, be referred to the Procedure and Privileges Committee for consideration as to what action, if any, can be taken by the house in relation to the report.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham) [3.45 pm]: The opposition is agreeable to the suspension.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Referral to Procedure and Privileges Committee

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Leader of the House) [3.45 pm]: I move —

That the Corruption and Crime Commission “Report on the Investigation of Alleged Public Sector Misconduct in Connection with the Activities of Lobbyists and Other Persons: A Ministerial Decision in Relation to Applications for a Mining Tenement at Yeelirrie”, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, 16 November 2009, be referred to the Procedure and Privileges Committee for consideration as to what action, if any, can be taken by the house in relation to the report.

As members would be aware, the Corruption and Crime Commission has made a finding of serious misconduct against John Bowler, the member for Kalgoorlie. The CCC recommended that Mr Bowler not be charged with corruption. The government believes that it is appropriate that this matter, regarding a member of this house, be considered further by this house. The appropriate body to consider the CCC report is the Procedure and Privileges Committee, which should make any recommendations on what further action, if any, may be necessary. I hope that members on both sides of the house agree to this motion. The Procedure and Privileges Committee should inquire into that report and report back to the house, should any further action need to be taken.

MR E.S. RIPPER (Belmont — Leader of the Opposition) [3.46 pm]: It would be wrong to pre-empt the deliberations of the Procedure and Privileges Committee by making observations on the substance and merits of the issue that is before the house. Suffice it for me to say that the state Parliamentary Labor Party supports this motion.

MR J.J.M. BOWLER (Kalgoorlie) [3.47 pm]: As the person involved, I support this motion. It will give me the chance to put my opinion on the CCC’s finding. I want to put two caveats on that support. One refers to what I believe were unintended and unfortunate comments by the Premier in yesterday’s press, when he may have unintentionally conveyed a belief that the findings of the committee would be one way, and that any subsequent actions by the committee would be in only one direction. The other caveat I put on my support of this motion is to express my extreme disappointment at the failure of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission to find out who leaked the draft report on this matter. As a former journalist, I am aware that the integrity of the journalist’s source of information must be protected; however, I felt that my own integrity and that of my lawyer could have been upheld without disclosure of the name of the individual who passed the draft to *The Sunday Times*, and I express my disappointment here in the house.

Question put and passed.

JACK WONG SUE — CONDOLENCE

Statement by Premier

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [3.48 pm]: I take this opportunity to record in this house the notable life of Jack Wong Sue, decorated war hero and accomplished diving pioneer, who died on 16 November, aged 84. Jack Sue was born in Newcastle Street, Perth, on 12 September 1925, the eldest of six children and the son of a doctor, Wong Shu Sue, and Mary Magdalene Clements. After receiving a white feather from a passer-by in the street at the age of 16, he left his job at Attwood Motors and joined the Norwegian Merchant Navy. After six months he applied to the Royal Australian Air Force, serving with the newly formed air crash rescue boats,

from where he was quickly transferred to the Z Force unit, a predecessor to the modern Special Air Service. While with the Z Force, Jack Sue, then aged 19, served behind enemy lines, training resistance fighters and harassing the enemy. As a member of a small group of elite people who took extraordinary risks, Jack Sue showed great courage and achieved much for the defence of Australia. For his service Jack Sue was awarded the United States Submarine Combat Insignia and the Distinguished Conduct Medal, with his citation stating that he had displayed “leadership, gallantry and cold blooded courage of the highest order”.

On returning to Perth, Jack Sue became Kalamunda’s 666th resident and, after a brief stint as a piano teacher, journalist and car salesman, opened Western Australia’s first dive shop. Operating the first Western Australian dive school, he shared the joy of scuba diving with thousands of Australians and was a leader in the diving community. Jack developed his own equipment and assisted with documenting the many shipwrecks found off the Western Australian coast. For this work he received an Order of Australia medal in 2006.

He also wrote two books, *Blood on Borneo*, which refers to his time with the Z Force; and he co-authored *Ghost of the Alkimos* with his son Barry Sue, which discusses their experiences diving on the wreck. I am certain that members will join me in extending sympathies to Jack Sue’s family. Jack Wong Sue was a truly great Western Australian, a great Australian, a decorated war hero and a person who contributed much to the Western Australian and Australian community.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM — WALIS INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Statement by Minister for Lands

MR B.J. GRYLLS (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Lands) [3.50 pm]: Last week I had the pleasure of officially launching the WALIS International Forum 2009—the Western Australian Land Information System—which was held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The WALIS International Forum was established in 1984 and has developed into one of the largest and most well known geographic information systems events in Australia. As one of the premier events in the geographic information industry, the forum attracts many delegates from a diverse range of professions. Held every 18 months, this event provides an opportunity to showcase issues related to all aspects of location-based information. This latest forum, held from 11 to 13 November, was a huge success, attended by more than 750 participants. Among those attending were local, national and international delegates involved in the use of spatial information from a variety of sectors. These included delegates from state and local governments, the private sector, academia and the community. Although the forum was open for all to attend, the event was particularly useful for people working with geographic information to improve their businesses. In keeping with the theme of the event, “Business Intelligence, Business Solutions and Education”, participants were exposed to cutting-edge location-based technology and the benefits of government and private sector collaboration in the use of geographic information. The WALIS International Forum 2009 contained several themes within its three-day program exploring a range of relevant subjects pertaining to geographic information. Of particular interest was the teaching theme, which explored the application of geographic information systems and tools in the education sector. The next WALIS International Forum is scheduled for 2011 and will be run concurrently with the International Society for Digital Earth Symposium to be held in Perth. I congratulate Landgate and the role it plays at world’s best cutting-edge technology in geographic information systems, and I wish it all the best for the future.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE — INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF SERVICES TO MEET THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA’S CHILDREN

Government Response — Statement by Minister for Education

DR E. CONSTABLE (Churchlands — Minister for Education) [3.52 pm]: On 24 September the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee tabled its report into the adequacy of services to meet the developmental needs of Western Australia’s children. It was a comprehensive report that raised many fundamental issues about the development and learning of children, particularly in their crucial early years. The report’s 30 recommendations cut across many aspects of government stretching across five portfolios, and focus on important areas, including parenting education, child health services, school readiness, early childhood and parent support in rural and remote areas, and literacy. These are all issues in which we as a state government have been deeply engaged since taking office in September 2008. The government has previously welcomed the report and is in the process of finalising a comprehensive response to it. The response will be completed in the very near future.

BARNETT MINISTRY — CHANGE

Statement by Premier

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [3.53 pm]: I take this opportunity to briefly inform members of the following change to the ministry that came into effect earlier today. Hon Peter Collier, MLC has now been

appointed Minister for Energy and Minister for Training and Workforce Development. For the information of members, I table an updated list of the new ministry and new administrative arrangements for the representation of ministers between the houses.

[See papers 1644 and 1645.]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FIREARM LICENCES — AUSTRALIA POST

885. Mr E.S. RIPPER to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the recent Auditor General's report that stated that the Western Australia Police are not adequately regulating and overseeing the possession, use, dealing in and manufacturing of firearm licences. I refer to the multiple shootings in Narrogin and Mandurah over the weekend and the minister's comments in this house on 11 November 2009, as follows —

I believe that if a person is deemed responsible enough to be given a firearms licence, it does not matter whether that person has one firearm or six firearms; that person will be ... responsible ...

- (1) Will the minister confirm that as of this month his government has privatised gun licensing to staff at Australia Post?
- (2) Does the minister still consider that it is acceptable for firearm licences to be renewed at post offices?
- (3) What checks and quality assurance measures will be undertaken by Australia Post to ensure that firearms are re-licensed safely and appropriately?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

- (1)-(3) I think the Leader of the Opposition has taken this issue out of context. We are certainly not privatising the licensing of firearms—full stop. We are not privatising that at all.

Mr R.H. Cook: So you don't keep doing it?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No; please! What we are doing is trying to ensure that renewals of firearm licences can be made through the post office. That is not to say that the post office will tick off and say, "Yes, you can have a firearm licence." The applications simply go through the post office and are then sent on to the firearms branch, where they are dealt with and approved. That is for existing firearm licence holders.

Mr J.H.D. Day: Renewals.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Renewals, exactly. Somebody who applies for a new firearm licence, who does not already hold a firearm licence, will have to go to the police station and do it in the way it has always been done; he will have to pass the various tests that are in place to ensure that people are responsible, suitable and considered able to obtain a firearm licence. The purpose of renewals going through the post office is simply to alleviate the backlog that is occurring in some of our police stations. Until now people have had to go to a police station simply to renew a firearm licence or to apply for an additional firearm licence. That takes up the time of police officers in police stations. This government wants police to do actual policing work out on the streets; we want to get them out there doing the job they are supposed to do. We do not want them simply to be a receptacle for taking firearm licence renewals—I stress renewals—and doing the work that could be done quite easily by a post office. In simple terms, that is all we are doing. We are not in any way loosening the need for integrity checks or the normal standards and procedures for anybody who wants a firearm licence. We take this issue very seriously, and certainly the police do. Once the police have done all their checks, a person may be able to obtain a firearm licence. People who already have a firearm licence have been through all those checks. Both the commissioner and I believe that this measure is probably more appropriate, rather than have people go through the hoops every time they want to add a firearm to their collection. They may be Sporting Shooters' Association members who need different types of firearms to carry out their sport of target shooting. We are trying to streamline re-licensing and additional licensing for existing firearm holders.

I am not quite sure what the last part of the question was. What was the last part of the question?

Mr E.S. Ripper: What checks and quality assurance measures will be undertaken by Australia Post?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Those will not be undertaken by Australia Post. Australia Post will simply be the receptacle for renewal applications for firearm licences and for additions to firearm licences. Those applications will be sent through to the firearms department, which will then assess them. There will still be assessments, obviously. If the firearms department believes that the person who is applying has been a responsible existing firearm licence holder, it will then accept the renewal if that person has not fallen foul of the existing criteria for

obtaining a firearm licence, and I assume it will accept it if it believes it is acceptable for the firearm licence holder to add to his or her firearm collection. It is as simple as that.

FIREARM LICENCES — AUSTRALIA POST

886. Mr E.S. RIPPER to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. If a spaced out, wild eyed, dishevelled man appears at Australia Post for the renewal of his firearm licence, will the police just process that on the paperwork without any question being asked about whether it is appropriate for this man to continue to hold a firearm licence?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

I like the example that the Leader of the Opposition gives. He has picked out—what was it—a spaced out, dishevelled man. I would assume that no matter where he went —

Mr E.S. Ripper: Wild eyed as well!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Wild eyed—that could apply to a few people in this chamber! At the end of the day, if there were any concerns then the firearms department would deal with that.

Mr E.S. Ripper: But they will not actually see the wild eyes!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I can see the point the Leader of the Opposition is making inasmuch if that very strange circumstance were to happen, but the Leader of the Opposition is talking about a hypothetical —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: If the Leader of the Opposition is so worried about that, that person would already hold a firearm licence. That wild eyed, spaced out, dishevelled person would have to be the holder of a firearm licence anyway and he would be under regular audit.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Every firearm licence holder is audited by the police. They go and check whether the gun —

Ms M.M. Quirk: They do not; the Auditor General says that!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: If the member wanted to ask the question—ask the question! We have the member for Girrawheen —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, there is only one person I want to hear the answer from and that is the Minister for Police.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Take a seat, minister. Member for Girrawheen, you do have an opportunity in this place to ask questions, you know that, and I will give you the call, but at this moment I formally call you for the first time.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: As I have said, the police do carry out audits. They may not have been to the degree that the Auditor General would have liked, but they carry out audits and I would suggest that the response from the police —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I preferred it when the member was not too well and she did not have a voice. If the member wanted to ask the question, she should have asked the question. The Leader of the Opposition was wheeled out at the weekend with a plan for community policing. There was no plan in his press statement; it was a load of garbage criticising the government for the good work it is doing.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: So, Mr Speaker —

Mr E.S. Ripper: How about giving them a few mobile phones and a few cars —

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr E.S. Ripper: — and some motorcycles back!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will take the Leader of the Opposition up on that; I am keeping him.

Mrs C.A. Martin: So hurry up and answer the question!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Goodness me! I do not know why every time I get up I attract this sort of attention.

The police accepted that there were some shortfalls in relation to the Auditor General's report—they did and they are addressing those. I believe that the police will do that in a very methodical way. However, in relation to the licensing of firearms, if a new person is applying for a firearm licence, he has to go to a police station. Existing firearm licence holders can simply put their applications through Australia Post, present themselves to Australia Post and then apply through Australia Post.

RENDEZVOUS OBSERVATION CITY HOTEL — PLANNING APPROVAL

887. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Planning:

Some time ago the owners of the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel had an appeal with the State Administrative Tribunal over a rejection of their development application by the Western Australian Planning Commission. These delays are leading to a fair amount of uncertainty in planning for the area. Can the minister please update the house on what he is doing to address this situation?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for the question and I know this is an issue in which she has had an interest, certainly at least since her election last year and presumably prior to that. The history of this matter is that the owners of the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel made a development application in September 2007 for conversion of the existing hotel building to permanent residential apartments. There also would have been a smaller number of short-stay accommodation units built on the site but the essential point is that the existing 17-storey hotel would have been converted under that application to permanent residential accommodation. That of course raised major concerns within the tourism sector. The Minister for Tourism has raised the issue with me. I think it was of concern to the previous government as well, and quite understandably. The application was refused, there was an appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal and the appeal was called in by the previous Minister for Planning and Infrastructure but referred back to the tribunal for a recommendation and the matter has remained with the administrative tribunal since then. The tribunal has had difficulty in resolving the issue mainly because the City of Stirling's planning scheme No 2 has been under review with town planning scheme No 3 being prepared and finalised.

I am pleased to say that the City of Stirling's local planning scheme No 3 was considered by the Western Australian Planning Commission in September of this year and has been delivered to me for a decision. The planning commission's view, which I share, is that the Observation City Hotel site is a regionally significant and prime tourism site within the vicinity of Scarborough Beach and that it is important to protect the tourism purposes of the hotel. Therefore, I have made a decision that the City of Stirling's local planning scheme No 3 should include a significant modification to what was proposed. Certainly, the City of Stirling was providing for a degree of protection for the site for tourism purposes but I think the degree of protection needs to be increased. Therefore, I have requested on the advice of the planning commission for a special control area for Scarborough to be incorporated into the planning scheme, which would have the effect of restricting the use of the existing 17-storey building to hotel tourism purposes and in the event that the existing building is demolished in the future that any new building on that site would be required to have no more than 25 per cent of the dwelling units allowed for permanent residential accommodation so that 75 per cent of the units would be retained for tourism purposes. That does not prevent some new development occurring on the site, which would allow for permanent residential purposes, but the important point is that the existing Observation City Hotel site, while the building is as it is currently, will be retained for tourism purposes, and in the event that the particular site is redeveloped, then no more than 25 per cent would be allowed for permanent residential accommodation. Therefore, I think that provides a very strong degree of protection for tourism purposes. It provides a strong degree of clarity for the owners of the site and it will ensure that Scarborough is provided with sufficient hotel rooms, or at least a significant number of hotel rooms, bearing in mind that it is a very important location for tourism purposes. The modification will now be advertised by the City of Stirling and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment; however, it is a very clear indication of the government's view about the importance of the site for tourism purposes.

MULTANOVA SPEED CAMERAS — NUMBERS AND PRIVATISATION

888. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the implementation of the government's commitment to double the number of speed cameras and revelations that the minister is planning to privatise this service.

- (1) When will tenders be let for these additional cameras and what is the estimated cost?
- (2) What part of the speed enforcement process is the minister contemplating privatising?
- (3) Are there any parts of the speed enforcement process that the minister would quarantine from privatising?
- (4) Has the minister or members of his ministerial staff met with prospective tenderers; and, if so, who and when?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

This is very fortuitous because I was told one of my colleagues was going to ask me a very similar question today, so I am delighted that the question has come from the member for Girrawheen!

- (1)-(4) Speed cameras are one very important tool in the fight to make our roads safer but it is important that the public accepts their use.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is why I was very concerned at the article in last week's *The Sunday Times*, which implied that the government had done a deal with Serco to outsource speed cameras. Let me set the record straight. Neither I nor any member of my ministerial staff has met with Serco or Tenix —

Ms M.M. Quirk: You've met with Tenix because you've answered a question on it.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Have I even finished my sentence? Let me say it again: neither I nor any of my ministerial staff has met with Serco, Tenix or any other company in relation to what may possibly be outsourcing road traffic and speed camera infringement work. I have met with them, as ministers meet with anybody who wants to meet with them. I made it quite clear to Serco and Tenix that I was not prepared to discuss in any way the possible—I stress “possible”—outsourcing of any red-light cameras, speed cameras and the processing of infringement notices work. I made that quite clear from the outset. What they did end up talking to me about was what they do in other states and other countries. That is perfectly legitimate. But I made it quite clear, absolutely clear —

Mr E.S. Ripper: The minister did not talk to them about it; they talked to him about it!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No. They told me what they did in other countries—not in this particular area, but other areas where they have contracts with government. Let me emphasise again: I would not discuss with them, nor would any member of my ministerial staff, the possibility in any way of contracting out services in WA. I hope members have understood that. I have said it about two or three times now. I have to do that to make it sink in.

I have a concern about the article in *The Sunday Times*. I told *The Sunday Times* quite clearly that should outsourcing prove to be a viable option, the placement of speed cameras will always—always—remain under the operational control of WA Police, based on road safety criteria from a range of government agencies.

Mr E.S. Ripper: The minister is probably going to pay them on commission!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The member for Girrawheen asked the first question. I am not going to take an interjection.

Mr E.S. Ripper: We are a team.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Members opposite do not look like it sometimes, I can tell you!

This government has shown a commitment to road safety. It has allocated \$30 million to at least double the number of safety cameras on our roads—red-light cameras, Multanova cameras and fixed cameras.

Yesterday morning I was delighted to host Dr Soames Job, the Director of the Centre for Road Safety, Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales. I would like to thank members on both sides of the house who came along and attended the breakfast forum. I think road safety is too big an issue to make it a political one. We should all be working on the Towards Zero strategy to try to save lives and serious injuries on our roads. I make that commitment to members. As I have said previously, there was a bipartisan approach, prior to the election, when all members made a contribution to the Towards Zero strategy. I acknowledge that it started off under the former minister, the member for Balcatta, and certainly the member for Wagin was the first member of Parliament to hold a forum in his electorate. He has made a tremendous commitment in this area. I pay tribute to those members who bothered to come along. I hope they learnt a lot yesterday, because there was a lot to learn. We are not the fountain of all knowledge here in WA. In New South Wales there has been a great reduction in the number of deaths and serious injuries on its roads, as I think those members who attended would attest to. I will try to replicate that sort of reduction here in WA.

MULTANOVA SPEED CAMERAS — NUMBERS AND PRIVATISATION

889. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. At the risk of sounding like *Groundhog Day* —

- (1) When will tenders be let for these additional cameras and what is the estimated cost?
- (2) What part of the speed enforcement process is the minister contemplating privatising?
- (3) Are there any parts of the speed enforcement process that the minister would quarantine from privatising?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

(1)-(3) That was more like another question than a supplementary.

Ms M.M. Quirk: It was the original question, which the minister did not answer!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The police are compiling a detailed business study and a business case on the potential of outsourcing. They are still in the process of doing that. It is premature for me to assume that the question is even relevant. Whether we outsource any or part of that particular operation is a matter that will be decided by government once police present to me a detailed business plan on what they believe is the best way forward. When they do that, I will present it to cabinet and then cabinet will make a decision.

Ms M.M. Quirk: What is the timeframe for that, minister?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: In the fullness of time.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

890. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Treasurer:

I refer the Treasurer to the Liberal Party's pre-election commitment to cut back on Labor's excessive and politicised government advertising program. Can the Treasurer update the house on the government's strategy for refining and reining in the significant growth rate in expenditure inherited from the previous government; in particular, how we are delivering on the election commitment to cut back that huge bill in government advertising?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:

I thank the member for his question and for his interest in the government's efforts to wind back what we in opposition came to refer to as the great Labor spin machine—more spin, Mr Speaker, than that delivered by the Indian great Bishan Bedi off the short run; more spin, as I understand, than that generated by the member for Wagin last Friday at City Beach in his efforts to impersonate a spin bowler!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members! By my reckoning we have about 15 minutes left, although I might be more considerate than that. We have achieved four questions at this point. That is incredibly rapid progress! Treasurer, I hope that you are going to make rapid progress through this answer and that other people in this place might stop interjecting.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I will cut to the chase.

I just happen to have a graph ready here. At the peak of Labor gorging on the spin machine in 2007-08, by our estimates it spent \$36.6 million on its very political advertising in one year. Last year we started to crank this sort of spending back down to \$28.1 million. This year we are now estimating a spend of \$17.5 million. For members opposite whose maths may be a bit poor, that is only \$19.1 million a year less being spent on self-promotion and spin!

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Does the member for Girrawheen know what can be done with \$19.1 million? A school can be built, heaven forbid! The member for Girrawheen might be interested to know that for \$19.1 million a police station can be built! They are the sorts of things that can be done with \$19.1 million. We are not stopping there; we are rolling on. Last week members would have heard discussion about our value-for-money audits. It is a great initiative—to go into agencies on a line-by-line basis to drive savings and efficiencies through government.

I was interested to notice some comments last week from the Leader of the Opposition in relation to these value-for-money audits—a very important tool. He said last week that the private sector should not be doing the job of Treasury. He also said that this is a political management exercise; it is not about accountants going in. I was interested to have a look back to 2006, when the Leader of the Opposition delivered his budget speech. He had a

thing called functional reviews. They were designed to deliver a very similar outcome to our value-for-money audits. In 2006 the Leader of the Opposition got up here and said, “We’ve been in power for five years and we’ve done two of them. We did one on the Sports Centre Trust and one on the Department of Indigenous Affairs. Don’t worry, this year we’re going to do six.” He had great political will—he did one! The irony is that the one he did into the Department of Industry and Resources, as I recollect, was never released. The one review into DOIR was conducted by—members might be surprised to understand this—a private sector representative, Mr Terry Budge, who he employed as a consultant on, I do not know, \$70 000, \$130 000, whatever he paid him. Is it not funny how, when a member changes sides in Parliament, the things that are acceptable to him when he tries to control expenses change. I do not know, but perhaps daring to get someone with private sector expertise to come and give a hand to drive efficiencies through the public service was acceptable in government, but when one is in opposition, it is not. When the Leader of the Opposition was in government it was a test of his political will; which he failed to find. We are rolling out these reviews. They will be incorporated into next year’s budgets. This will become part of an ongoing program to manage expenses.

LIVING WITH DIABETES PROGRAM

891. Mrs C.A. MARTIN to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Living with Diabetes program, a support program that delivers services to people with chronic illness outside of the hospital environment.

- (1) Can the minister inform the house of the number of patients currently enrolled in this program?
- (2) Can the minister inform the house of the number of hospital patient days saved as a result of this critical program?
- (3) Will the minister confirm to the house that despite his decision to axe the program, a recent cost-benefit analysis of the program reveals that it delivered value for money to the South Metropolitan Area Health Service?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1)-(3) Unfortunately, I cannot answer all the specific details. I have briefing notes that cover them but I have not had time to go through them to look at the specifics during the asking of the question. However, I do know in general terms about those programs and some of those that we intend not to proceed with any more. The diabetes management program is one of those. An evaluation showed for the people involved in that program there was a reduced stay of about three days a person, but that was provided at a cost of about \$4 500 a person, so it was not value for money and it nowhere near covered all the numbers of people with diabetes in this state. Only a very small proportion were accessing that program and something in the order of 40 full-time equivalents were running that total program. Therefore, in looking at getting value for money for the taxpayers’ dollar we looked at two things. It was either a program that needed to have significant further expenditure to get it out to the whole diabetic community, and to do that the cost per person would need to be significantly reduced to make it value for money—sadly, those additional dollars are currently just not available—or a program that needed to be stopped and other mechanisms looked at for making sure that people get that service. The divisions of general practice very strongly put to us that we were under-utilising their very strong ability to provide chronic disease management through their general practices. They certainly have the ability to do that; they have the funding from the commonwealth to do that; and they have the desire to do that. In some ways we were coming in as a government hospital service saying that we would take over what they were doing because we thought we could do it better. In fact, we were not doing it better; we were doing it worse because we were spending a considerable amount of money on the patients and more than we were getting back in saved hospital days in tertiary hospitals. We made the decision on that basis. We are retaining a significant number of other programs, such as the coach program and the wounds management program, because we do see value for money in those. We need to do the best we can to look after the taxpayers’ dollars. That is one area where we think the money can be better spent. No individual patient will be affected, because whoever is on the program now will continue on the program until the time which their need to be involved in that program is terminated.

Mr R.H. Cook: Just don’t get a chronic disease in the future, that’s all!

Dr K.D. HAMES: The member says that, but people who have diabetes or those who have significant numbers of other chronic diseases were not on that program. Only a very small percentage of those who had those chronic conditions were in the program.

Mr R.H. Cook: So it is a cut for people with chronic diabetes.

Dr K.D. HAMES: We are not cutting.

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Kwinana!

Dr K.D. HAMES: Is it the member for Kwinana's question? I thought it was the member for Kimberley's question. They want to get their spin doctor machine out again.

Mr E.S. Ripper: We are a team over here.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Oh, yes! There are two areas of the program for diabetes that we are trying to work on. One is the remote Indigenous community program. The member would be very well aware that Ernie Bridge has been funded in her electorate. We have significantly increased funds for Ernie Bridge to roll out his diabetes program in communities. It is my intention to further expand that particular program because it delivers very real benefits to Indigenous communities. He has just released a report that shows significant improvement of health in those areas where he has been working. We will continue to do that. We will work with general practitioners to make sure that they are carrying out the role that they are trained for, that they are keen to do and that they are funded for by the commonwealth, and that is stronger chronic disease management, particularly through the divisions of general practice. We are not reducing money in health, as I have said over and over again. The funding for health has increased. We are redirecting funds from areas where it is less efficient to areas where it is more efficient.

LIVING WITH DIABETES PROGRAM

892. Mrs C.A. MARTIN to the Minister for Health:

As a supplementary question, I have been a patient of this service since October. There are results for most of the people who are there, because they have not been rehospitalised.

The SPEAKER: Member, you need to ask a question.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: Does the minister know how important this service really is; does he have any idea at all? That is my question.

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

I am surprised that the member is involved in this service, because it is really for those who do not have the capacity with their own resources to manage the many issues that need to be managed for people who have diabetes. People who could otherwise do it through their general practice where those things are available —

Mrs C.A. Martin: They referred them on.

The SPEAKER: Member for Kimberley!

Dr K.D. HAMES: Having said that, if the member is currently receiving that service, as I have said, she will continue to receive that service, so she should have no concerns.

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT — DR RUTH SHEAN

893. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Premier:

People in my electorate are keen to access first-class training and build their skills so that they can take advantage of job opportunities that lie ahead as the state's economy continues to grow. Will the Premier provide the house with an update of what the government is doing in the area of training and workforce development?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for the question. The member for Riverton has been an observer and commentator on the Western Australian economy for a long time. He would know better than most the challenges that always occur with strong growth in this state. All going well, Western Australia can look forward to perhaps 20 years of strong economic growth. That will put significant demands on both workforce numbers and particularly skilled and trained areas. I acknowledge the previous government's work that was heading in that direction, but the point I would make is that much more will need to be done. Although the focus might be on some of the major resource projects, other training needs are spread throughout our economy. It is for that reason that this government, as it were, split the previous Department of Education and Training to create a stand-alone and specialist Department of Training and Workforce Development, which came into operation at the end of October. I am pleased to be able to inform the house that this morning, following the selection process, the Public Sector Commissioner has announced that Dr Ruth Shean will be the inaugural director general of the new Department of Training and Workforce Development. Ruth Shean is known to members on both sides of the house. She has a distinguished background in the public sector, being a former acting director general of the Department for Community Development and also the Department for Child Protection, and a former director general of the Disability Services Commission. The direction the government is taking is to give special attention to training, and so that the existing TAFE sector is not seen as providing similar training in a whole lot of different locations, to take it from a broad training structure to specialist centres and institutes of training so that we will have, for example, a specialist tourism centre or institute and we will have other areas in engineering, the building trades and some of

the emerging technical occupations. Part of the overall objective is not only to meet the needs of this economy, but also to raise the standing of training and skills in the eyes of young people. To do that I think the time now is to move beyond what has been a long-established TAFE system and to take it forward. I have absolute confidence in both the minister and Dr Ruth Shean to lead what I hope will be a significant and positive transformation of training in Western Australia.

COMPLETE PORTABLES — WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL

894. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the donga construction business Complete Portables, which employs around 90 Western Australians, and the fact that this business is now very likely to be shifted to China, with the loss of those jobs.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the business is likely to be moved to China because of its inability to obtain approval from his agency for the use of land at Lot 700 Power Avenue, Wattleup?
- (2) Is the minister aware that his agency has delayed approval so much that the company's managing director has just returned from China and Thailand after looking to move his business there?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the company has been advised that the Western Australian Planning Commission has not given the proposal priority because the relevant staff member has been ill and has been working only three days a week?
- (4) Does this not show that all the minister's talk about approvals is rubbish?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

- (1)-(4) The answer to the member for Rockingham's last question is certainly no. To answer the other three questions: no, I was not aware of the various claims that the member for Rockingham has just made. Indeed, to the best of my knowledge, and I have asked my office to —

Mr M. McGowan: You should be—90 jobs to China, do you think it's a joke?

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Treasurer, and the member for Rockingham, the Minister for Planning has the call; he is on his feet answering the question. I do not expect dialogue across the chamber.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have seen the member for Rockingham's media statement. After receiving a media inquiry just before Parliament commenced this afternoon, I was provided with a copy of his media statement in which he makes all sorts of outlandish claims about the Planning Commission slowing the approvals process. The headline is "90 WA Jobs could go to China while Barnett dithers". What a load of absolute nonsense.

Mr E.S. Ripper: It was good of you to read that into *Hansard*; well done.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: That is the opposition's claim; it has no credibility whatsoever. I read it out because it is ludicrous.

To the best of my knowledge and despite the best efforts of staff in my office to find out, Mr Emanuel Dillon has not made any contact with my office on this issue, nor has his company. We receive inquiries from members of both sides of Parliament about a range of issues. Whenever we can we seek to assist, get a resolution or ensure information is provided by the Department of Planning through my office. As far as our records can ascertain, Mr Dillon has made no contact with my office.

Having said that, it is important also to advise that there is a minor issue concerning the land on which Mr Dillon is seeking to undertake this development; that is, it is located in close proximity to the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline, and a significant risk management issue must be addressed in relation to excavating land adjacent to —

Mr M. McGowan: Don't you care about jobs?

Mr J.H.D. DAY: It is important for the state of Western Australia and for the WA Planning Commission to protect major infrastructure assets such as the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline to ensure not only the continuity of gas supplies but also public safety. That is the approach that the Department of Planning and the Planning Commission have been taking. It would be irresponsible not to consider those issues. As is the applicant's right, given there was a deemed refusal and given the expiration of time, he has appealed to the State Administrative Tribunal for a determination. As I said, that is his right but it has probably had the effect of slowing the process to some extent. I am advised also that the Department of Planning is working proactively on behalf of the WA Planning Commission with the applicant's consultant to reach agreement on conditional

approval to be the subject of a consent order authorised by the State Administrative Tribunal. A directions hearing will be held at SAT on Thursday this week at which progress will be discussed.

Far from the Department of Planning or the Planning Commission seeking to slow the approvals process, from the information I have been provided with, a lot of effort is being put into trying to find a resolution so that the important natural gas pipeline is protected and Mr Dillon can undertake the development he wants to. It is important to act responsibly in these issues and not make outlandish claims such as those the member for Rockingham has been making.

COMPLETE PORTABLES — WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL

895. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Planning:

I have a supplementary question. Considering those 90 jobs will go to China unless a resolution of this matter is reached this week, will the minister intervene to resolve the matter, as any good minister should?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

As I said, the matter is before the State Administrative Tribunal. Is the member asking me to intervene in a judicial process, which is effectively what it is?

EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE — REVIEW OF WA'S CURRENT AND FUTURE HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Extension of Reporting Time — Statement

THE SPEAKER (Mr G.A. Woodhams): I have received a letter dated 13 November 2009 from the member for Alfred Cove, Chairman of the Education and Health Standing Committee, which reads as follows —

Dear Mr Speaker

Review of WA's Current and Future Hospital and Community Health Care Services

Pursuant to Standing Order 255(3)(b), I advise that the Education and Health Standing Committee resolved on Wednesday 14 October 2009 to amend the terms of reference for its *Review of WA's Current and Future Hospital and Community Health Care Services* by delaying the tabling date of the Inquiry's report until 6 May 2010.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE — INQUIRY INTO THE "INSIDE AUSTRALIA" PROJECT AT LAKE BALLARD (MENZIES)

Extension of Reporting Time — Statement

THE SPEAKER (Mr G.A. Woodhams): I further advise that I have received a letter dated 17 November 2009 from the member for Armadale, Chair of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, which reads as follows —

Dear Mr Speaker,

Inquiry into the Inside Australia Project at Lake Ballard

I wish to advise that the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee has resolved to amend the Inquiry's Terms of Reference and will table the report on Thursday 26 November 2009.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 1179, 1271, 1345 AND 1365

Answer Advice

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham) [4.36 pm]: In accordance with standing order 80(2), I am seeking answers to questions 1179, 1271, 1345 and 1365 asked of the Treasurer.

MR T.R. BUSWELL (Vasse — Treasurer) [4.36 pm]: I have been led to believe that the answers will be provided tomorrow, Wednesday, 18 November 2009.

SHACK SITE COMMUNITIES

Petition

MR M.J. COWPER (Murray-Wellington — Parliamentary Secretary) [4.37 pm]: I have a petition from 107 petitioners regarding shack site communities, which reads —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned say that:

Leased Shack Sites Communities, such as Wedge Island, Grey, Donnelly River, Broke Inlet, Dampier Archipelagos, and Israelite Bay have long been the traditional holiday/recreational destination for many thousands of ordinary Western Australians.

Most Shack Site Communities sprung up to accommodate the gathering of farming and town based families to enjoy holidays together in remote and idyllic fishing locations right across Western Australia.

Some Shack Site communities went onto becoming fully-fledged towns such as, Bremer Bay, Jurien Bay, Dongara and Horrocks, whilst some Shack Site Communities have disappeared.

However, some residual communities remain, with a strong sense of community and have become the preferred holiday option for many thousands of Western Australians.

These places are tangible examples of sustainable lifestyles, where younger generations can learn responsibility and become creative and family traditions and stories can be passed on.

The loss of these communities will seriously diminish the social, economic and health well being of many ordinary Western Australian families.

Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly support our campaign for the Government to

Examine how other States of Australia, including South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales have retained conforming Shack Site Communities in order to preserve these valuable assets for many Western Australians to have affordable coastal holiday destinations and continue to allow human interaction all but lost in today's society.

Similar petitions were presented by **Mr J.N. Hyde** (190 signatures) and **Mr A.P. O'Gorman** (325 signatures).

[See petitions 177, 178 and 180.]

MOORE RIVER — HOUSING LOTS SOUTH OF ESTUARY

Petition

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [4.39 pm]: I have a petition regarding opposition to urban development south of the Moore River. It is signed by 17 petitioners and is as follows —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say that the announcement by the Minister for Planning on 9 June, 2009, to approve of the development of 2,000 housing lots on the south side of the Moore River Estuary, is contrary to the findings of the Gingin Coast Structure Plan and to the view that has been consistently and strongly put forward by the community since 1995.

Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly recommend that the land adjoining the proposed Wilbinga Conservation Park which is subject to the Moore River Company's plans, be:

1. purchased by the Government at a fair price to the landowner;
2. be managed in perpetuity for the benefit of the whole community, for the protection of the estuary of the Moore River;
3. purchased to stop suburban Perth sprawling to the Moore River and beyond; and
4. saved from any form of urban development so that Western Australian tax payers are not forced to contribute to or subsidise the massive infrastructure costs (roads, bridges, sewerage, water supply, electricity supply) that would be caused by a development at the extreme outer limits of the city).

We make this request because of the unique aesthetic and environmental features which this area contributes towards the natural capital of Western Australia.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition 179.]

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

BILLS*Notices of Motions to Introduce*

1. Approvals and Related Reforms (No. 3) (Crown Land) Bill 2009.

Notice of motion given by **Mr B.J. Grylls (Minister for Lands)**.

2. Approvals and Related Reforms (No. 4) (Planning) Bill 2009.

Notice of motion given by **Mr J.H.D. Day (Minister for Planning)**.

3. Criminal Code Amendment (Identity Crime) Bill 2009.

4. Criminal Code Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2009.

Notices of motions given by **Mr C.C. Porter (Attorney General)**.

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE — PUBLIC FUNDING*Notice of Motion*

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house calls upon the Premier to explain —

- (a) his contradictory position on public funding of the state's critical port infrastructure; and
- (b) his government's clear intention not to proceed with the publicly owned Fremantle outer harbour container facility, a decision that imposes an unsustainable traffic burden on the local communities and jeopardises the state's economic growth.

MEMBER FOR MANDURAH*Leave of Absence — Notice of Motion*

Mr M. McGowan gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That leave be given for the absence from the Legislative Assembly of the member for Mandurah until 30 November 2009 on the grounds of urgent private business.

BILLS*Appropriations*

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following bills —

- 1. Higher Education Amendment Bill 2009.
- 2. Approvals and Related Reforms (No. 4) (Planning) Bill 2009.

RETAIL TRADING HOURS AMENDMENT (JOONDALUP SPECIAL TRADING PRECINCT) BILL 2009*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr T.R. Buswell (Minister for Commerce)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR T.R. BUSWELL (Vasse — Minister for Commerce) [4.46 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The bill the government is introducing today is the Retail Trading Hours Amendment (Joondalup Special Trading Precinct) Bill 2009. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Retail Trading Hours Act 1987 to do two things: firstly, to change the term "tourism precinct" to "special trading precinct", and, secondly, to establish a new special trading precinct in Joondalup in addition to the existing precincts of Perth and Fremantle. The tourism precincts, which under this bill will now be called "special trading precincts", were initially established in 1987. Under section 12A(1) of the act, ministerial orders can be made setting the trading hours of general retail shops within the precincts, and, under the orders currently in place, those shops in the Perth and Fremantle precincts enjoy longer trading hours than the rest of the metropolitan area. These precincts have been very popular with not only interstate and international visitors, but also Perth residents from other parts of the city who travel to the precincts to satisfy their recreational and purchasing needs.

There has been considerable social change in metropolitan Perth since the act was first introduced, especially in patterns of work, recreation and lifestyle. The Premier indicated in a speech to this house on 17 June 2009 that the government considers that the next phase in the evolution of Perth's shopping arrangements should include the creation of a third precinct in Joondalup. This development will improve the shopping options available to residents of the northern suburbs, as well as to visitors. Joondalup has been selected as the location for the new shopping precinct because of the support provided by its local government, for geographical reasons—namely, to balance the distribution of such precincts—and because of Joondalup's growing importance as a visitor destination. The change of the name from “tourism precinct” to “special trading precinct” reflects the fact that these precincts are used by residents as well as tourists and serve a broader range of community needs.

While Joondalup is a developing tourist destination, it is also a commercial and residential centre in the northern suburbs and it is appropriate to provide the district with the status of a special trading precinct for these reasons. It is intended that new ministerial orders will be made providing the three special trading precincts with appropriate trading hours. The government is aware of interest in Midland and Armadale also becoming special trading precincts. The case for the creation of new precincts in Midland and Armadale will be examined on their individual merits. If agreed to by the government, legislation will be introduced in the autumn session of 2010. While the government is committed to improving the range of shopping options available to residents of the Perth metropolitan area, it is also conscious of the diversity of views in this house and in the community about what changes to trading hours are desirable. The government believes that this bill will make a modest and timely improvement to the shopping opportunities available to residents of and visitors to the northern suburbs. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms R. Saffioti**.

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2009

First Reading

Bill read a first time, on motion by **Mr C.C. Porter (Attorney General)**.

Second Reading

MR C.C. PORTER (Bateman — Attorney General) [4.50 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill is what is commonly known as an omnibus bill, introduced into Parliament as part of an ongoing program of legislative review. An omnibus bill is an avenue for making general housekeeping amendments to legislation. It is designed to make only relatively minor, non-controversial amendments to various acts and to repeal acts that are no longer required. Omnibus bills assist in expediting the government's legislative program and parliamentary business by reducing the number of separate amendment bills that deal with relatively minor amendments and repeals. They also help to weed out spent or redundant legislation from the statute book. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided oversight of the original bill. However, oversight has since been transferred to the Department of the Attorney General.

The bill deals with two main categories of amendments—acts repealed and acts amended. Part 2 of the bill provides for the repeal of unproclaimed or obsolete, redundant, spent and inoperative acts. Part 3 of the bill contains a range of miscellaneous, non-controversial and administrative amendments to a number of acts across various portfolio areas. These are minor or technical changes to legislation that the Parliamentary Counsel's Office considers are appropriate for inclusion in the bill. Examples of such amendments are corrections to typographical, grammatical, formatting and cross-referencing errors; amendments that are believed to better implement the object or intent of the legislation; amendments arising out of the enactment or repeal of other legislation; and amendments updating terminology. The various amendments are explained in detail in the explanatory memorandum. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms R. Saffioti**.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL 2009

Declaration as Urgent — Motion

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Leader of the House) [4.53 pm]: On behalf of the Minister for Education, I move —

That the bill be considered an urgent bill.

I have moved this motion for the reason that I believe the bill needs to go through both houses of Parliament, ideally before the end of this sitting period. I understand that the shadow Minister for Education is also keen for this bill to be enacted as soon as possible. I am waiting for the Minister for Education to return to the house, but in the meantime I am very happy to listen to the shadow Minister for Education until the minister arrives. I am

sure that the shadow minister has a lot to say about this bill, and I will be very happy to listen to what she has to say.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 November.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland) [4.54 pm]: I rise to speak on the Higher Education Amendment Bill, which is a bill that I have been waiting for the minister to bring into the house for the better part of a year. There are very few bills that highlight to such a great degree the total and complete incompetence of the Minister for Education. The Minister for Education has had to be dragged, pushed and prodded to bring this legislation into the house. Members of the Midland community, members of the education community and I have, for the past year, been asking where this bill is. Earlier this year I was hopeful that the bill might be introduced during the autumn session; when that failed to occur, I was given assurances that it would be introduced during the spring session. At the death knell of this year's Parliament and with next to no notice, the bill was read for the first time last week. No advance copy was provided to me or to the opposition, despite my declared interest. The Minister for Education was not here last week, is not here for the commencement of debate on the bill today, and will not be in the chamber on Thursday, and it was left to the Leader of the House to read the second reading speech last week.

Last Thursday I received a letter dated 11 November 2009—last Wednesday—advising me that the bill had been second read into the Assembly and that if I wanted a briefing on the bill I could contact Mr Alan Marshall, manager of higher education at the Department of Education Services, as the instructing officer. I was advised of that by the minister's acting chief of staff, Ken Acott, in correspondence that I received just last Thursday. That is an indication of the disregard with which the minister treats this house, the disregard with which she treats me and the opposition, and the disregard with which she treats those in the education community and in the Midland community who might be interested in this bill. In due course I will get to the reasons for the relevance of this legislation to Midland.

This bill is almost identical to a bill that was ready to go around in August or September last year. The history of this amendment bill, which amends the Higher Education Act 2004, is that in 2000 it was agreed that higher education legislation should be put in place. After that act came into operation, it became apparent that amendments were necessary. The need for those amendments was outlined in the minister's second reading speech.

This bill essentially deals with an area that is very significant to all of Australia. Higher education is worth about \$15 billion to the national economy and about \$1 billion to the Western Australian economy. The minister states in her second reading speech —

Thirdly, a new section provides that an overseas education institution may apply to the minister for a determination that the institution meets the criteria for recognition in Western Australia as an overseas university. Again, an application for a determination may involve an agreement relating to the payment of costs incurred in considering the application.

I am advised that without this bill, the minister cannot receive an application for a new university to operate in Western Australia. One such university is the proposed Raffles University; I understand that the minister has been aware of its proposal for the better part of a year. Indeed, I understand that the minister has had discussions with people in China and in Western Australia about the proposed Raffles University. We are therefore waiting for the establishment of this new university in Midland, but so far it has not been able to get to first base. It has not been able to make an application to the Minister for Education because this bill had not yet been brought to the house.

I have had discussions with the Midland Redevelopment Authority and the people at FORM, and they are of the view that this university could inject about \$300 million into the Midland economy over a period of about 10 years. Potentially, \$100 million will be spent on the university campus itself, and then there is the potential for another \$200 million of value in accommodation and other services. The university would be located on the Midland redevelopment site, at the old railway workshops. This would be a phenomenal boost to not only Midland but also the state of Western Australia. As members will be aware, the eastern region does not have a university like the western and southern suburbs.

I cannot see what possible explanation there could have been for such an enormous delay. This legislation is the result of the ministerial council approving some revised protocols, in the first instance, on 7 July 2006, and some further ones on 31 October 2007. I gather that, from that point on, all the states went away and undertook to revise their higher education acts to put the amendments in place. A year later, Western Australia had a bill that was ready to go. I am informed by the minister's adviser that that bill was not substantially different from the bill

that is before the house today. Why have we waited a year? Why has this process been delayed? Why could this not have been brought forward in the autumn session? The minister must also surely know that there are rules for dealing with uniform legislation, and a bill such as this is required to be referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review in the other place. I would be interested to hear how the minister intends to deal with that, and what further delays will be built in because of her laziness and incompetence in not bringing this bill to the house earlier.

This is a significant bill that deals with a significant industry. Without it, I am told that an application for the establishment of a new university cannot be accepted. My concerns go further than this, because this is merely the first stage. Passing this bill will not allow Raffles University to commence trading or to even get the process significantly underway. All it can do at that point is put in an application. I am advised that after a panel has been set up, and after due and appropriate assessments have taken place, a further act of Parliament would be required in the form of some kind of agreement act to establish the university, in a similar way as happened for Notre Dame University and other private universities around Australia.

We have a long path ahead of us, and it has been made longer by the minister not bringing the legislation before the house earlier. I can understand that she may have wanted to take some months last year to assure herself that she and the government wanted to support this legislation. However, to bring it to cabinet only recently, to receive priority to bring it to the house only at the last moment, and to have to have it declared an urgent bill, is quite extraordinary and reflects very poorly on the minister and her work ethic, or lack thereof. It is not as though the minister has had a particularly onerous legislative workload—I am not aware of any other legislation that she has brought before the house. It would be thought that in the course of the year she might be able to manage one simple piece of legislation. Indeed, this piece of legislation was drafted before the present government was elected, is very straightforward, has been agreed between education ministers around Australia, and has the support of every state and the commonwealth government. This legislation is non-controversial. I certainly do not intend to delay its passage. I have readily acceded to it being declared an urgent bill. We have had to do that because the minister simply has not been able to get her act together all year, and was unable to introduce the legislation in the autumn session.

The issue of the legislation not having been brought forward was raised with the Premier in Midland about six weeks ago at a luncheon held by the Swan Chamber of Commerce. It too had joined the chorus asking where the legislation was, and when the Raffles University would be able to get to the first stage and make an application to the Minister for Education for the establishment of a university in Western Australia. This bill will not guarantee the university's establishment, but it is, as I understand it, an essential first stage. I implore this house to deal with this legislation speedily, and I hope the minister might learn from this experience, and that she might take seriously the prospect of a university being established in Midland. If and when she receives an application from Raffles University, I hope that the minister will deal with it promptly, set up a committee expeditiously, ensure that all of the protocols are complied with and, assuming all is well, introduce an agreement act into this house much more quickly than she has done on this occasion.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [5.07 pm]: I would like to make a few comments on the Higher Education Amendment Bill 2009, and particularly the university to which it relates. As the member for Midland stated, this bill is basically designed to allow the minister to begin the process of setting up a new university in Western Australia. It relates in this case to an application from Raffles University, which, as the name would imply, is based in Singapore. The interest of Raffles should be read as a strong tick for higher education in Western Australia. Raffles University has had a long relationship with Western Australia in that it was for some years the provider of educational services in Singapore on behalf of Curtin University of Technology. As many members will be aware, Curtin University decided a couple of years ago to build a campus of its own in Singapore, and therefore it no longer uses Raffles' services. In the meantime, Raffles has set up campuses in a number of countries, including China, Mongolia and India, where it services a large number of students. Of course, it also still operates in Singapore. Raffles' aim is to use Australia as not only a finishing school but also a place where students from the various campuses can come and spend a year. It will focus initially on a number of courses, including design and architecture and related areas, which are of great interest around the world, including Australia. This signals that Raffles perceives, correctly so, that the regulatory system in Australia for the approvals of universities, the status of universities and their curricula, is a benchmark accepted around the world. It is a benchmark that many students around the world not only accept but seek to attain.

It is therefore very important for us to facilitate Raffles University developing a campus in Western Australia. It has chosen Midland for a variety of reasons. One is the location, but it also perceives the old railway workshops, which have been underutilised in recent years, as a suitable place to build a long-term campus. It will be a big undertaking. Anyone familiar with the railway workshops will know that they will require substantial investment to be turned into a university. Raffles also plans to establish additional buildings, including housing accommodation relating to the university. The previous member mentioned a sum of \$300 million; I have heard the figure of \$200 million quoted, which is a substantial investment in the area of Midland. Furthermore, Raffles

plans to use its university as a base to expand not only its domestic but also its international student numbers. It will be a major investment in Midland, a major investment in the university system, and a major capital investment in Western Australia. It will also act as a second or third tier to the university system in Western Australia, adding to its diversity and strength. It is therefore a project very much to support. The Raffles people want to get going, but they know that they are here for the long term. They have to get the place right, they have to get the structure correct and they have to get the legislation upon which their university will be based correct. I urge members of the house to support the bill. I encourage them to learn about the Raffles project and support it because it will be a good fillip for the state and for the education system.

MR J.N. HYDE (Perth) [5.10 pm]: I am also very supportive of this Higher Education Amendment Bill 2009 and am anxious that it be dealt with in a speedier way than it has been dealt with in the first 13 months of this government. Of course, one reason it is important to get it through Parliament as soon as possible is the proposed development of the Raffles University in the Midland area.

International higher education in Australia today is a \$15 billion industry. It has third ranking in Australia's export income. It is an incredibly important industry, but it is an industry in which Western Australia is not performing as well as it should. We are the last state to agree to these protocols that will bring us into line with the other states.

This bill is obviously important for the proposed Raffles University, but let us look at a much bigger picture of what we are trying to do. When we look at what education, particularly international campuses, could do for the development of regional WA, we see that WA continues to be the most urbanised state in the world; some 76 per cent of people live in Perth. We have not invested enough in other industries or other economic drivers that could provide an ongoing economy, a cultural life and a sense of place to regional WA. The United States has Parliaments that have been traditionally located outside its capital cities, whether it be Washington state, where Seattle and Tacoma are clearly the biggest cities and the legislative capital is in Olympia, some 150 kilometres away, or a raft of other states in the US. However, there is also a much higher preponderance of regional university towns. This was brought to my mind on Sunday evening when I was very fortunate to meet with Barack Obama's arts tsar, Eric Booth, who is charged with delivering a big change to the arts in the US. For the first time in an election there was a strong arts policy by a presidential candidate, Barack Obama. Mr Booth comes from an arts education background. In talking with Mr Booth, the US Consul General and other members of the WA arts community on Sunday evening, I discovered that Mr Booth's first acting job had been at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. Ashland is one of the American cities I did not perform in but have visited many times. Ashland is some 200 to 250 kilometres out of Portland, which is the major city of Oregon. The annual Shakespeare festival goes for eight months and is a huge tourist driver. The university campus there is also a considerable economic driver. Passing this legislation will make it easier for international university campuses to locate in Western Australia, and making it easier for partnerships will have tremendous advantages and spin-off effects for Western Australia. These things should be very much in the thinking of the government. The Minister for Education, who is also the Minister for Tourism, has an opportunity to get international education in WA out of silos and show that university education is not merely about education. The spin-off effect on the economy from international students is something like four to one in terms of dollars spent by relatives and friends who come to visit. Singaporeans, Malaysians and other students from Asia who come to WA spend between \$80 000 and \$100 000 a year when accommodation, tuition fees and other associated costs are taken into account. The figures indicate that there are between 2.7 and 3.2 visitors for each international student. Clearly, by increasing the number of international students, other sectors of our economy are aided, and more importantly other sectors of our cultural life.

I recall seven years ago in one of my budget-reply speeches making the point that WA was an Asian state—most members did not understand that—whereas today our integration with Asia is very much regarded as not only economically important, but also culturally important. Education and tourism are very important tools for spreading the relationship from being merely an economic one—our providing raw resources—to making it broader and longer lasting. I hope that in her reply to the second reading debate or at the consideration in detail stage the minister will indicate how this bill and the government's policy will facilitate a melding together of tourism and education. The excellent work of the Small Business Development Corporation and the State Migration Centre indicates that the huge economic driver in getting skilled migrants into WA is a recognisable international university education system that enables skilled migrants to make a choice when they are thinking about studying in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany or Australia. The diversity that a world-class university education can provide can often swing the choice for a skilled migrant in choosing WA, particularly a business migrant who is coming here with at least \$1 million. Again, if we are dinkum about making an impact on regional WA, having a diverse world-class international university education system throughout regional Western Australia will also attract business migration to regional WA, and not just to Perth.

Eric Booth's discussion with us on Sunday evening was very much focused on the importance of an arts education. In a number of American universities it is compulsory for students of medicine or engineering to take

arts education units in those degrees. The research was quite mind boggling in medicine, where it has been empirically proven that interns and doctors with an arts education and who had training and exposure to art, particularly abstract art, were more inclined to make better diagnoses when making assessments of patients.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: I am not sure we want any medical student or orthopaedic surgeon to be a fan of cubism. I can see some very strange body shapes!

Mr J.N. HYDE: Yes, or Dadaism. The research indicates that an exposure to abstract art does not relate to some artistic realignment of broken legs and bones. When the patient presented, the doctor would not automatically go to textbook diagnoses. Through exposure to abstract art and being confronted with something that is not simple and needs examination, the doctors' diagnoses actually became better because they would think more and look at a broader range of possible diagnoses. Therefore, the evidence in medical schools was proving that the exposure to abstract art was making the doctors better decision-makers; it was creating a greater decision-making capacity.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: I can feel a policy coming on here—the one per cent for art out of the health budget!

Mr J.N. HYDE: The member has just spoilt our 2013 election policy, but it was launched today by the member for Armadale! Perhaps by 2013 we will be able to call on the federal government for matching funding, member for Armadale, for that visionary —

Mr C.J. Barnett: I am sure Malcolm Turnbull will be sympathetic!

Mr J.N. HYDE: He is actually a very good supporter of the arts, so I —

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: And the republic!

Mr J.N. HYDE: I certainly hope that they keep hypothetical —

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: But not necessarily the refugees, so he is not your friend!

Mr J.N. HYDE: Anyway, back to this bill! The other issue I hope this bill will address is timeframe related. There is an expectation amongst people who are hoping and desiring growth in the Midland area and the backers and supporters of the Raffles University that the minister will be able to give the green light for Raffles University within a matter of weeks or months after the passing of this bill. Therefore, it is very important that the minister inform us exactly how soon after this bill is gazetted—and what the timeframe for its gazettal is, given that the bill has been brought with such haste into this Parliament—that she will be signing off on Raffles University or any other overseas university that may be seeking to set up in Western Australia.

An important clause within this bill provides that an educational institution can request the minister to appoint a higher education advisory committee to report to the minister on whether the institution may meet the criteria. Clearly, we would like to know the actual mechanics of the committee. I know the minister may say that this is a matter for regulation, but if we are voting on —

Dr E. Constable: It is not a matter for regulation; it is all in the bill.

Mr J.N. HYDE: But if we are voting on the timeframe, is there a deemed approval if the minister does not respond within 10 days?

Dr E. Constable: Any institution has to apply —

Mr J.N. HYDE: Yes.

Dr E. Constable: So institutions have to put their applications in first, and then determine the next step.

Mr J.N. HYDE: We need to know what that response time will be, how quickly the minister will appoint the committee —

Dr E. Constable: As soon as possible.

Mr J.N. HYDE: We know that, but if we are on deadline and we are having to fast-track this bill this week, surely we can get some guarantee that on 23 December the committee will be in place —

Dr E. Constable: It has to go through the other house.

Mr J.N. HYDE: You are the government, member.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: But the government has not actually listed it on the other house's agenda.

Dr E. Constable: It has to get through here first.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: No, it has not been listed as one of the bills that the government is wanting to have passed.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Norman Moore has not listed it as a bill he wants to do by the end of the year.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: Hon Norman Moore is not intending to pass it.

Dr E. Constable: Hon Norman Moore is aware of the urgency of this bill.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: Yes, but he is obviously not taking any notice of it because in the list he produced —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): Members! I thought the member for Perth had the call, although I might be mistaken. Member for Perth, please continue.

Mr J.N. HYDE: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I think these are very, very important issues. We are rushing this bill through before dinner this evening. We expect some response from the government on its timeframe, on exactly when the Raffles University people will be able to meet with the committee, and on how soon after meeting with the committee the minister will guarantee to give a decision under the protocols.

Clearly, other provisions in this bill provide for the minister to take a leadership role in providing for higher education in Western Australia. We are interested in and determined to know the minister's vision and funding arrangements. How in practice will the minister augment the development of international education and university education in Western Australia? The importance of this bill cannot be stressed enough. Very much to the forefront at the moment we have seen the federal government act judiciously in providing for stronger protection against fraudulent or negligent representation, so we need to know how that will be replicated in the state system to get those higher standards and the investigation, if we are suddenly going to have a rash of further independent universities setting up.

The only example we have, I guess, is Notre Dame, which of course comes very much from the North American model. We are now certainly looking at a Singaporean-model university, which is heavily based on the British system, and we have in terms of Baccalaureate education a number of higher education universities that are based on the French model of education. We need to know that we will have the funding and the inspectors or the systems in Western Australia to ensure that we have proper assessment of these new universities coming in, but in the same breath I say that we do not want dissuade them from coming here. We want to be saying not just that we are focused on an American model of private education, but that we are an open frontier state and very much an Asian state. Therefore, we are looking at not only the education needs of people in Western Australia, but also an education system that will bring in people who live in the same time zone as us in Western Australia.

I hope the minister addresses these points. The minister may think that they are technicalities but I think they are very important points. We want to know that once we pass the Higher Education Amendment Bill, Western Australia will be up and running and going full-steam ahead towards becoming a higher education new world.

MS A.J.G. MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [5.28 pm]: I also want to support the Higher Education Amendment Bill 2009. I am very pleased that at last it has come before us. I am particularly aware of the development of Midland that has taken place through the Midland Redevelopment Authority, having had responsibility for that for the past seven and a half years. It has really been an excellent project that has seen that town centre thrive —

Mr C.J. Barnett: A good Liberal initiative!

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Can I say that the actual focus on Midland as a focal point for development really started in the 1980s with the very courageous decision to move the Department of Land Administration, as it was then, out to that area. When the Liberal government decided to close the Midland workshops, notwithstanding its election commitments, it did develop —

Mr C.J. Barnett: Another courageous decision!

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: It is true; that is exactly what happened. The Liberal government started the Midland Redevelopment Authority, and we would like to think that we really built on that work. We put a lot more effort and money into ensuring that the heritage —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: After all it was our idea!

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Our idea! We put effort and money into ensuring that the heritage fabric and the artistic endeavour were deeply woven into that development. I think that the development we have seen in Midland is of an exceptionally high standard.

Midland is the most appropriate place for the location of a higher education facility in the eastern corridor. It is the area furthest away, really, from the existing universities. I am very pleased that its initial focus will be on architecture and arts because I think that fits in very well with the incredible work that has been done by the Midland Redevelopment Authority, with FORM, to develop a real precinct—a very high-end art and craft product. I see this working extremely well.

I will pick up on and maybe amplify some of the points made by the member for Perth. Although there are tourism and planning benefits associated with the location of a university, it will certainly help enhance what is already working well; that is, the intensification of activity around Midland. It is very important for us, with higher educational institutions, that we do not compromise quality of education. The fundamental aim of a

university is not for tourism and not to advance town planning. The fundamental aim of a university must be to educate. We must ensure that our universities are of a very high standard. If we are to maintain any competitiveness internationally, we have to ensure that we have high standards. I am constantly horrified by the number of academics at a range of universities who tell me about the pressure that is put upon them to pass students and, in particular, to pass foreign students, who basically have not met the minimum requirements but, because of the need to get the students through, pressure is put on academics to do that. I think that that is very short-sighted. Ultimately, that practice will debase the currency of our universities. It is absolutely critical, in higher education, that we have good standards.

I agree with the member for Perth that we do not just want to go down the single model path. I think it is good that we have various university models and that they do not all follow the same type. The University of Western Australia, for example, is now going more to the American system, which is having a first general degree and doing a postgraduate in the more occupational degrees. Some schools, like John XXIII College, introduced the International Baccalaureate curriculum; and other schools have introduced other alternatives to the standard TEE, or run parallel programs to those. People want alternatives. We are increasingly in a global village. It is important for us to have a variety of different educational models and to have those on offer. I make this plea: institutions of higher learning must fundamentally be institutions of higher learning. Whilst it is good for us to build on the town planning aspects and the tourism aspects, fundamentally, the critical thing is that we ensure those universities are of a high standard and they truly are higher education institutions. In the long term, if we debase that currency, it will be to our disadvantage. Temporary attraction of candidates will be lost if university degrees are not seen as being of great worth.

I support this legislation. I really want to compliment the crew at the Midland Redevelopment Authority and the people at FORM who have been working very hard with the proponents of this university to get this legislation up.

MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills) [5.34 pm]: I also support the Higher Education Amendment Bill 2009. The member for Midland and I have a great passion for this. Midland is a traditional service provider and regional centre to the Perth hills, the Avon Valley and the northern and eastern wheatbelt catchment. Not only do people come to shop in Midland, I think they also use some of our schools. It would be a dream come true to have a university of our own in Midland. The Swan Chamber of Commerce and the City of Swan have worked tirelessly for years to see this happen. I will not speak a great deal about the Raffles University or what it is about. All I am supporting is that it happens in Midland.

We have been fighting for the establishment of a university in this important regional town for a long time. Midland is ideal because, apart from what has already been spoken about, we have affordable housing. We have all the normal shopping facilities, as I said. It services the eastern and northern wheatbelt areas and, of course, who can forget that we are going to have a brand-new hospital soon. One of the aspects I am really happy about is that with the involvement of international students comes the patronage of their parents. What better area can people come to than Midland with its history, Guildford with its history and all we have to offer in the Swan Valley. There cannot possibly be a nicer introduction to Western Australia.

The location of the university in Midland will help our students as well. For many years our students have had to travel hours to get to universities in the western suburbs, and back again. It will be a great achievement for us to have a university located in Midland. It will help the constituents of my electorate of Swan Hills, who obviously use Midland a great deal. It will totally change Midland. It will be one of the great things we have fought for. I commend this bill to the house.

DR J.M. WOOLLARD (Alfred Cove) [5.36 pm]: I thank the Minister for Education for offering me a briefing on this bill last Thursday. The bill was tabled on Wednesday, after the Education and Health Standing Committee had had its meeting. I actually brought this bill to the attention of the principal research officer of our committee on Thursday and said that, as we cover health, education and mental health, I believe that we should look at and have some feedback in relation to this bill. I am standing now to bring to the attention of the house that I think six days is not adequate. I asked my staff to start making phone calls today to the different universities. It sounds very much like the opposition has known about this bill for some time. I think the member for Swan Hills meant to say Raffles University rather than Raffles Hotel!

Mr F.A. Alban: Did I say "hotel"? Hopefully it is as good as the hotel!

Mr M.P. Whitely: Plenty of higher learning down there as well!

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: The bill seems to have general approval from both sides of the house, but why do we have a committee structure if we are not going to use that committee structure? When bills that pertain to a particular committee are put on the table, then the committee concerned should have an opportunity to review that bill and give some feedback to the minister on that bill. I know that I am not the only member of that committee that has not had an opportunity to do so.

MR M.P. WHITELY (Bassendean) [5.38 pm]: I want to make a few brief comments. I echo the comments of the member for Midland who expressed her pleasure that the bill was here but her frustration that it had taken so long to get here. I will put that aside. I welcome the bill. I have read the minister's second reading speech. Although it does not make any particular reference to what everybody is talking about—the idea of the Raffles University being established in the Midland corridor—I think that would be a great boost for education in the eastern suburbs. I have represented both ends of the eastern suburbs—the area around Armadale and the area around Midland. I think that both have been the poor relations in terms of education. The western suburbs are serviced by UWA; the central region and the northern suburbs are serviced by Edith Cowan University; the south is serviced by Curtin University of Technology and Murdoch University; and the Fremantle area is serviced by Notre Dame. But students in Midland do not have the same opportunities that are extended to people in other parts of Perth. I think partly as a consequence of that, the rates of tertiary education in that corridor are lower than they are in the rest of the city.

I certainly support the notion of having a university in the eastern suburbs and I certainly support the notion of basing it around the Midland railway workshops site. I think it is a fantastic site. I appreciate there are no economies in building on that site. From my understanding, based on the work that was done for the proposal to put Governor Stirling there, in some ways, it can be a more expensive option. However, it is a unique opportunity to build on a heritage site and create a unique higher learning atmosphere. It is an opportunity that needs to be taken up.

Dr E. Constable: Could I just ask you, were you talking about Governor Stirling Senior High School on that site?

Mr M.P. WHITELY: They were looking.

Dr E. Constable: It would cost an extra \$30 million to do it. We looked at that carefully.

Mr M.P. WHITELY: The option of putting Governor Stirling on that site was considerably more expensive.

Dr E. Constable: An extra \$30 million—50 per cent more.

Mr M.P. WHITELY: Yes. I support the location of Governor Stirling on its current site. I am saying that I acknowledge that building on the Midland workshop site is not necessarily a saving because it creates more challenges.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): Members!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I do not want to call you to order, members, but I am standing on my feet. If you want to have a private conversation, go outside. In this debate, there are people getting up talking and all of a sudden there are people talking across the chamber. If you want to talk, stand on your feet and ask the Chair.

Mr M.P. WHITELY: Thank you for your protection, Mr Acting Speaker.

I support the university being on the Midland Workshops site because I think it offers a unique opportunity, not necessarily because there are any economies involved. Talking about the issue of Governor Stirling, I think the new Governor Stirling school—a great Labor initiative that, of course, the minister will get to open and take all the credit for—will set up that corridor as a site for academic and educational excellence. It will be of great benefit to not only people who live in the Midland area, but also people who live in my electorate around Bassendean, Ashfield and Eden Hill, who will be able to use the transport infrastructure, in the form of the railway line, to get to the school and, eventually, as they graduate from the school, hopefully, to go on to the university in Midland proper. I think it is a great initiative.

I want very briefly to take a slight tangent, which was also taken by the member for Armadale, who talked about the need for higher education not to be treated as a funding-driven factory. She talked about some of the pressures that can sometimes be placed on academic institutions to pass students who perhaps are not necessarily worthy of a pass, because there are dollars involved in it. She flagged that issue. I have a similar concern about the role of research within universities. Research is a significant driver of funds for universities these days. For universities that have to operate on a commercial basis, accessing research funds can be a major source of revenue. At all times when universities are doing research they need to have an open process. The public has the right to know the details of research. The public has a right to access the ethical considerations for research. I say this against the background of an issue that I was heavily involved in earlier this year. I will very briefly touch on it. The reaction was highlighted on the front page of *The Weekend Australian* of 10 January 2009, with the headline “Curtin University misled about ADHD drug”. Basically, the problem was that I was aware of some research that was being done at Curtin University of Technology. I will not go into the great detail of it, but I was concerned about whether the Human Research Ethics Committee had been fully informed of some of the

dangers of the particular drugs that were being used and trialled on young children. I was also concerned, quite frankly, with the competence of the principal researcher, based on some dealings I had had with her previously.

I tried to access, through a freedom of information request, the documentation that the university's Human Research Ethics Committee had used to consider the ethics of this research, just to determine whether committee members had been fully informed of the process. The Curtin University of Technology blocked me for 15 months from getting this information. I had to go through a full-blown FOI process. It took 15 months before I actually got the documentation. The documentation revealed that there were enormous problems. If members really want to know the details of the problems, they should read the front page of *The Weekend Australian* of 10 January. Basically, the principal researcher had provided the university's Human Research Ethics Committee with factually incorrect information. I did not go public with this initially, but I wrote to the vice-chancellor of the university, saying that she had problems with her own ethics committee processes and that she needed to fix those problems. I highlighted the problems to the vice-chancellor and asked her what she was going to do about it. I got a legalistic response, which was a fairly stupid legalistic response when I think about it, because it basically said that the university completely denied the assertions that I had made, that I was wrong in every fact, and that should I repeat them it would reserve all legal rights; in other words, the university was threatening to sue me if I tried to disclose this information. There were two fundamental flaws with that approach. The university's legal department obviously wrote the response. The response was not guided by the ethos of what a university should operate upon. It was not guided by the spirit of openness and intellectual inquiry. It was guided by lawyers who were concerned about protecting the university's reputation. The problem with it was twofold. First, I had parliamentary privilege and I could have come into this chamber and said anything and had the protection of Parliament. They were threatening somebody whom they knew to be a member of Parliament and who could have come into this chamber and said anything. Secondly, I did not even need parliamentary privilege, because I just gave the whole package to *The Australian*. The newspaper staff checked out the facts and put it on the front page of *The Weekend Australian*. It was highly embarrassing for the university staff. They do not like getting bad front-page stories in *The Weekend Australian*.

It is fair to say that immediately that happened the attitude of the university staff changed. I was phoned and told that they thought it had all been a terrible misunderstanding. Since then their behaviour has been exemplary and they have enabled me to access details of the research. The point I am making is tied in with the point that the member for Armadale was making; that is, the first function of universities has to be higher learning. To the extent that they do research, the function of research has to be the betterment of humanity, not the dollar driver. What Curtin University's response showed to me was that it had a legalistic culture in which it was acting like a big corporation in trying to protect its reputation and trying to use bluff and bluster to prevent me from disclosing something that would be unfavourable to it, rather than taking up my invitation. I did not go public straightaway. I wrote to the university and said that those were the problems and asked what it was going to do about it, and the university responded in a very legalistic manner. Universities have to be concerned about having an ethos of higher education and they have to be concerned about an ethos of having research that is done for the benefit of humanity. Of course, they need to be financially viable and they need to consider legal issues along the way, but learning and truth fundamentally need to be their drivers.

With those few comments I will say that I endorse the bill. I am disappointed that it has taken as long as it has to come into this place, as the member for Midland pointed out, but I am pleased that it does give an opportunity for the prospect of having a university in Midland to be fully explored and, therefore, I am happy to support the bill.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham) [5.48 pm]: I support the bill. Of course, although higher education is technically and legally the responsibility of the state governments and universities are the creation of the state governments, it is predominantly in a financial sense and, I suppose, in an overall policy sense, the responsibility of the commonwealth. However, in order to administer the universities —

Dr E. Constable: It is our responsibility.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Since 1974, they have been predominantly the responsibility of the commonwealth.

Dr E. Constable: It is our responsibility. It is our legislation.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, I think I have just said that. The commonwealth funded them from 1974 when it took over the funding responsibilities. Certainly in my experience, universities are very attuned to what commonwealth ministers are interested in and commonwealth policy direction. From a state perspective, the legal powers and the legislation that creates them are our responsibility. Naturally, if there are reforms or requirements for change in their governing acts, they come to the state to do that. Some funding is provided to the universities from the states. It often consists of grants or arrangements for the sale of property or the like that the universities might own. They often seek the support of the state government to do that. Predominantly, in a real sense if not in a legal sense, universities are now the responsibility of the commonwealth and, indeed, the

people who use the university facilities, given they secure a great deal of their funding from their great body of students and the people for whom they conduct research. The arrangements have changed over the past 35 years or so, which is hardly an important point in this debate.

I support the legislation, but I will attach some caveats to it. People have been talking about a proposed Raffles University for Midland. People from the Raffles University came to brief me as minister about its proposal perhaps early last year or late the previous year—I cannot recall when—with the idea of establishing a sixth Western Australian university in the form of a campus at Midland. They had examined other sites but they said that was their preferred location because it is reasonably close to the city and an area that is under-serviced with tertiary education. I was quite interested in the proposal, but at the time, the Raffles University people said they wanted to work up the proposal and would come back at a later stage with something more substantial. They obviously have now done that. The establishment of a campus out there would be a good idea.

These are the caveats I attach: people have referred to campuses as being a good thing for local communities, and I strongly agree with that. There is a Murdoch University campus in my electorate of Rockingham. I recently visited the Notre Dame campus in Broome, and there are facilities in Albany, Geraldton, Bunbury and other major regional centres in Western Australia. There are also major campuses in Joondalup, Mt Lawley and Mandurah. University campuses in major centres are designed to provide tertiary education opportunities for people who may not otherwise have access to major campuses that are close to the heart of the city. That is a good thing but the local communities they serve need to realise that it is a good thing and they need to use the facilities they are provided with. Student numbers at some campuses have dropped alarmingly. When I went to the Notre Dame campus in Broome I found out that around 100 students are studying the courses it offers. Notre Dame campus in Broome provides a great service, albeit an expensive service, for which it is inadequately recompensed by the commonwealth. But the community in Broome is not using it as much as it should. I think we can say the same about a number of communities. The university campus in my community of Rockingham is wonderful. I indicated to Murdoch University that I would be staunchly opposed to its closure, as was speculated at one time, but it needs to be properly accessed and used. A difficulty for regional campuses is that young people want to study at the major campuses where there is more activity and more people. However, that creates a fundamental problem for campuses in outer-urban or rural locations. I would therefore say to communities around Western Australia that universities have done a good job in providing campuses for people to access, so people need to use them if they want to keep them. I suppose the term is use it or lose it.

The other point I want to make is that if we allow campuses to establish—the Raffles University is the obvious example—they need to be of high quality. The Australian tertiary sector has been built upon its reputation around the world as a high-quality education system. I have led delegations to other countries selling Western Australian tertiary education. It is acknowledged as a high-quality system where students are not ripped off and second-class degrees are not given out. If we are going to allow institutions to establish in the way Notre Dame did, they must be properly monitored and regulated to ensure they do not become second-rate institutions that damage the reputations of the existing facilities. My understanding of the Raffles University, based in Singapore, is that it is a high-quality institution. That is a good thing, but we need to make sure that if any others come along, we do not allow them to establish if they are likely to damage the reputations of our existing universities—the University of Western Australia, Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University and the University of Notre Dame, and Raffles University, once it is established.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It reinforces the need for state regulation in this area.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think the Premier misinterpreted my remarks at the start. I said that universities were regulated by the state, but predominantly funded by the commonwealth. Who do we react to more, the person with the money or the regulator? If the universities approach the government with a reasonable proposition to change laws, of course, it will do it. I held meetings every six months with the Western Australian Higher Education Council to resolve issues. I do not know whether the minister does that too.

Dr E. Constable: I have meetings every three months.

Mr M. McGOWAN: We had a very friendly, cooperative relationship.

They are the two things I suggest; that is, the standard of education be of a high quality and we should not allow what appears to have happened with some of the TAFE-style providers in Melbourne to happen to our university sector. I am sure the minister does not intend for that to happen. Also, communities need to understand what they have. Regional campuses are a great opportunity for local communities and a privilege that never existed decades ago. No-one who grew up in a country town as I did could have a university education in that town. I had to travel 600 kilometres to go to university. They provide a wonderful opportunity and communities need to use them or, when money gets tight, as it has done, the universities will look to moving out of facilities or, at least, taking their standing down to such a level that the courses offered are very minor. They are my only comments on this bill.

DR E. CONSTABLE (Churchlands — Minister for Education) [5.56 pm] — in reply: I thank all the members who have spoken in this second reading debate. A wide range of issues were covered, including those in the bill, and some very interesting comments were made about higher education in general. I particularly thank the member for Midland for her support of the legislation. However, I think she needs a history lesson. I need to remind her of the passage of these protocols and why we are dealing with this today as an urgent bill. The original protocols were adopted on 21 March 2000 and a bill covering them was introduced in 2004. This bill seeks to revise national protocols that were agreed to at the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs in July 2006, and some further revisions in October 2007, also, of course, approved at MCEETYA. There was an agreement in the 31 October 2007 revised protocols that they had to be implemented by all jurisdictions by 31 December 2007. That obviously did not happen and that is why we are looking at this as an urgent bill. I was interested to hear the member for Rockingham mention that, as the former minister, he met Raffles University people in 2008. He had ample opportunity to introduce this bill while he was still in government. He had at least nine months to do so, but did not.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: What have you been doing for the past year; you've had 14 months?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Hang on! The member for Midland has had her turn.

Mr M. McGowan: You asked me what the date was, but I don't recall.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The member for Rockingham said the Raffles people had been to see him, so he is aware of it.

Mr M. McGowan: My diary is not imprinted on my mind; I cannot remember exactly when it was.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: We are the last state in Australia.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It is an embarrassment because the Labor government did not pass the bill.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: We are the last state in Australia —

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It was the Labor government's job to pass it by 31 December.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): Order, member for Midland!

Mrs M.H. Roberts: You've had 14 months.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It was the Labor government's job to pass it by 31 December 2007 and it did not do that.

Mr M. McGowan: Why would you start throwing this at me? I made a reasonable speech and you start —

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I took up one of the member's comments —

Mr M. McGowan: I did not criticise the minister.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: — because I think the member for Midland needs a history lesson.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Midland.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: An agreement was reached at the ministerial council in October 2007 that all jurisdictions would incorporate these protocols into their legislation by 31 December 2007, but the Labor government did not do it. That is why we are addressing it tonight under the new government.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: During 2008 no priority was given to this legislation by the former government even though it was aware during that year of the interest from the Raffles Institute.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the second time.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: When there was no priority to do so, the Department of Education Services began looking at this legislation last year, but it was not ready by September 2008 when the election was held.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Before the dinner break, I had been making some remarks about the history of this bill. I had also been pointing out that it had been agreed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: So that justifies you wasting another year on it?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Midland!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I did not interject on the member for Midland at all when she was speaking, and I would like to be able to get through this so that we can move on.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: We may not move on if you are going to take that attitude!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Midland!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Member for Midland, I am giving my version; the member has given hers.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: There are no excuses.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No priority was given to this bill in 2007, and no priority was given to it even in 2008. It was not enacted under the agreement that was made by MCEETYA. So the bill drifted over a number of months. Finally, out of the goodness of heart of parliamentary counsel, some work was done on the bill. That was a very slow process, and by the time of the state election in September 2008 it still had not been completed. After the election in September, a letter was sent to the Leader of the Opposition requesting that a copy of the work that had been done on the bill so far be given to the new government. That letter was never answered. Therefore, we effectively had to start from the beginning. We have given this bill priority in drafting, and it is now before this house as an urgent bill.

A number of members have spoken about the importance of this bill to the Midland area, given the interest of Raffles Education Corporation in establishing a university college at the site of the old Midland railway workshops. This government is totally supportive of that initiative. That is why we are here tonight debating this very important bill. I agree totally with the comments that have been made about the impact on the Midland area of an institution such as this. It will provide excellent opportunities for not only young people, but also mature-age students, in the eastern corridor, and also in the hills area and beyond. It will be an excellent addition to the greater Perth area.

The member for Perth asked some questions about the process that will take place after this bill has passed through both houses of Parliament. Once this legislation has been passed, we will be letting Raffles Education Corporation know as quickly as possible that we are prepared to accept an application from it for the establishment of a university college. Once that application has been received, it will be checked to ensure that it meets all the relevant protocols. Those protocols are, of course, readily available. We would not want the application to go to the expert panel and then find that it has not been completed correctly, so we will be providing any assistance that may be required to enable those protocols to be met. I have consulted with officers from the Department of Education Services, and I would anticipate that once the expert panel has been appointed, the minimum time that the panel would need to check such an application would be between one and three months. It may take a little longer, but I would hope that the application would be processed within this time frame.

Members have spoken about standards. The appointment of the expert panel will be the first port of call in ensuring that standards are established and maintained. Therefore, the calibre of the people on the expert panel will be extremely important. The people on the expert panel will be people who are, or have been, deputy vice-chancellors or vice-chancellors of Australian universities. I would hope that in this case there would also be at least one person from an interstate university. The protocols are about setting and maintaining standards in our universities. That was a theme that came across in the remarks of almost every speaker on this bill today. We will be ensuring that those standards are maintained. I assure those members who have an interest in this bill that that will be very important. As soon as I receive the report from the expert panel, I will look at it, understanding the urgency of this matter from the point of view of the Midland Redevelopment Authority, the government, Raffles Education Corporation, and those interested in this legislation. I will also need to take advice on the report, but I imagine that within two to four weeks, that process of ministerial oversight will have been completed. If we add up all the time frames that I have mentioned, the minimum time within which this process could be completed, once we have received the application, will be three or four months. That will give us plenty of time to make sure that all the requirements for such an application have been adhered to fully.

I say again that it is very important that the protocols that are set maintain high standards. Raffles Education Corporation is proposing to initially establish a university college for a period of five years. It is proposing to offer a fairly narrow selection of courses compared with universities such as the University of Western Australia and Curtin University of Technology. It will be looking initially at courses in the areas in which it has expertise—that is, design and technology, and architecture. After that initial period of five years, it will then seek for the university college to be given the status of a fully fledged university. It will, therefore, need to go through a number of steps, as part of the protocols, to receive that title.

The member for Perth mentioned a number of issues that do not relate directly to this bill but certainly relate to higher education. I want to make some comments about that. He talked about the importance of overseas students and how that relates to my two portfolios of education and tourism. Education-tourism, as it is

sometimes called, is worth about \$15 billion to Australia. Western Australia's share of investment from overseas students is about \$1 billion. That is a little less than we would like it to be. However, I venture to say that we have done this pretty well in Western Australia. We certainly have not had to deal with the issues that have arisen in the larger cities of Melbourne and Sydney recently with overseas students. I would like us to develop our share of this market slowly, and to do it properly by looking after these students and making sure that they are receiving the best possible opportunities in Western Australia.

The member for Perth also talked about the importance of skilled migration. We would not have the skilled workforce that we have in Australia today if we did not have overseas students. The people who have come from overseas to gain degrees and qualifications in our universities and technical colleges more often than not want to stay and work in Australia. Without those people, who have been well trained in our universities and technical education sector, we would not have the skilled workforce that we have today. As the member for Perth has suggested, these people are vital to the development of our workforce, and they must always be factored into our workforce planning. The member made a very important point. Although it is not directly related to the bill, it is worth commenting on.

The member for Alfred Cove commented on the need for the Education and Health Standing Committee, which she chairs, to scrutinise this legislation. It is not usual for a standing committee to scrutinise this type of legislation. The member has been offered briefings on this bill and I would be more than happy to speak to her or the other members of the committee about the legislation if they want me to.

The member for Bassendean took up the theme of standards, which a number of other members commented on, including the member for Armadale. The member for Bassendean agreed with many other speakers that the Raffles college in Midland would be a great boost for education in the eastern suburbs, and I totally agree with that. The member commented also on the possibility of Governor Stirling Senior High School being placed on the Midland redevelopment site. I was approached by the school council of Governor Stirling some months ago and we looked very carefully at the possibility of incorporating at least some of Governor Stirling Senior High School on that site. However, the sections around the old Midland Workshops that we were offered were very small. Doing that would have meant splitting the school into years 8, 9 and 10 and then having years 11 and 12 near the Raffles site.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: That's not correct. I had plans drawn up for both inside a shed and also for a greenfield site.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: If I could just continue my comments —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: It is up to the government to decide whether or not to instruct the MRA on the site as they required.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We looked at this. I do not know what the member for Midland did but I am telling her what we have done when in government. We looked very hard at how we might do it. The only way that Governor Stirling can be rebuilt is on the two sites.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: That's not correct. I have the documents.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The cost of that possibility was \$97 million. The previous government and our government have set aside \$63 million for that. We finally made the decision that the school would be rebuilt on the current site for years 8 to 12 because of the increase in the cost that was given to me, after a great deal of consideration, by the Department of Education and Training. I can only go on the advice that I have been given by the department.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am telling the member the most recent view and analysis under my guidance as the Minister for Education. I asked the department to do that and a lot of effort was put into it. That is the result and that is the conclusion that we have come to. The member for Rockingham—the former Minister for Education—discussed the importance of maintaining standards and the consideration of the split between the federal government's and the state government's responsibilities for funding. He also raised the very important issue of regional delivery, which is something that we are spending a lot of time on. I have been corresponding with the federal Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on that matter because Western Australia does not get its share of funding for regional universities and tertiary education. I know that the former government would have been involved in that. It is a complex matter but is one that we will continue to push ahead on because I agree with the member for Rockingham that it is important to provide at least some opportunities, particularly for young people, in regional areas. Often young people do not want to leave home when they have finished school and it would be a plus for them if they could start their degree at a centre that is reasonably close by. It is a plus also to have regional delivery of educational services close to mature-age students, particularly those who want to enter into professions such as teaching and nursing, because it is often

difficult for women in particular who have family obligations to complete their tertiary education if the only option for them is to move to Perth. We will continue to take up these issues that are important for tertiary education but are not necessarily related to the bill before us tonight.

I thank members for their contributions and in particular for their support for this legislation. I thank Mr Alan Marshall from the Department of Education Services for the work that he has put into making sure that this bill is in the shape that it is in.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Dr E. Constable (Minister for Education)**, and transmitted to the Council.

GAS SUPPLY (GAS QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS) BILL 2009

Council's Amendments

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

Consideration in Detail

The amendments made by the Council were as follows —

No 1

Page 3, lines 1 and 2 — To delete the lines and insert —

Gas Access Law means —

- (a) the National Gas Access (Western Australia) Law, the Rules made under that Law and the regulations made under the *National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009*; or
- (b) the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Law, and the regulations, in force under the *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998* before the commencement of the *National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009* section 30;

No 2

Page 4, lines 25 to 28 — To delete the lines and insert —

pipeline service has the meaning given in the National Gas Access (Western Australia) Law section 2;

No 3

Page 5, lines 16 and 17 — To delete the lines.

No 4

Page 6, line 17 — To insert after “gas transmission pipeline” —
or a part of a gas transmission pipeline

No 5

Page 6, after line 21 — To insert —

- (3) In this Act, a reference to a gas transmission pipeline includes a reference to a part of a gas transmission pipeline when the context requires.

No 6

Page 13, lines 4 to 9 — To delete the lines and insert —

- (b) provide for disputes about —
 - (i) the relevant effects on the capacity of a PIA pipeline; or
 - (ii) the effects on users' rights (under pipeline services agreements) resulting from the way in which the relevant effects on the capacity of the pipeline were or were not dealt with in the pipeline impact agreement,
 to be resolved by the determination of an expert chosen in accordance with the regulations and for such determinations to be final and binding on the parties to the dispute;

No 7

Page 24, line 8 — To delete “Part 1A;” and insert —
Part 2;

No 8

Page 24, after line 8 — To insert —

Director means the Director of Energy Safety referred to in the *Energy Coordination Act 1994* section 5;

No 9

Page 24, line 21 — To delete “by the Minister”.

No 10

Page 25, line 12 — To delete “Coordinator” and insert —
Director

No 11

Page 25, line 20 — To delete “Coordinator” and insert —
Director

No 12

Page 25, line 21 — To delete “Coordinator,” and insert —
Director,

No 13

Page 26, line 7 — To delete “Coordinator” and insert —
Director

No 14

Page 26, line 18 — To delete “Coordinator” and insert —
Director

No 15

Page 26, line 20 — To delete “Coordinator” and insert —
Director

No 16

Page 34, lines 9 to 11 — To delete the clause.

No 17

Page 34, after line 8 — To insert —

37. Act amended

This Division amends —

- (a) if this section comes into operation before the day on which the *National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009* section 26 comes into operation — the *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998*; or
- (b) otherwise — the *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998* (as amended by the *National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009* and cited as the *Energy Arbitration and Review Act 1998*).

Leave granted for amendments 1 to 3 to be considered together.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I move —

That amendments 1 to 3 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The Gas Supply (Gas Quality Specifications) Bill 2009 was passed by this house and then amended in the upper house. This is largely a technical bill that simply widens the definition of “gas specifications” for the Dampier to Bunbury gas pipeline and other pipelines. In particular, it will accommodate the prospective development of the Macedon gas field, which will be an important source of domestic gas supply. The amendments that have been made to the bill—the bill having already passed through this house—in

large part reflect the fact that the National Gas Access (WA) Bill 2008 has now been passed through both houses. It recognises that the other piece of legislation has passed; therefore, it refers to that in the Gas Supply (Gas Quality Specifications) Bill 2009, rather than the other act. Amendments 1, 2 and 3 reflect the fact that the National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009 has been passed by Parliament. When the Gas Supply (Gas Quality Specifications) Bill 2009 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 19 August, the National Gas Access (WA) Bill 2008 had not been passed by Parliament, and therefore could not be referenced in the Gas Supply (Gas Quality Specifications) Bill 2009. These amendments basically acknowledge and reference the other bill that has since passed. That sounds totally confusing, but it is basically reasonably straightforward.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I thank the Premier for his explanation, in particular the concluding remark that it sounds very confusing but it is straightforward, which I found to be an extraordinary use of the English language.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Yes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I would like to hear more of that sort of terminology used by the Premier to describe things, because I think it enlightens us a lot in relation to what he thinks about things. I accept the explanation that it is confusing but straightforward, but I think my understanding of what he said is that the laws that have been passed consequent to this bill being introduced are now being referred to in this legislation via amendments in the upper house to ensure that this law is current, as opposed to requiring an amendment at some point in the future. I am not exactly sure which act this bill referred to prior to it being transmitted to the upper house; I assume that there was a preceding act to which it referred, which has now been repealed, and therefore the repealed act no longer appears in this bill that has been amended in the upper house. I think that is a fairly straightforward explanation, but I would like to hear from the Premier—in a confusing yet straightforward way—which act was formerly referred to in this legislation.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That was a very simple explanation of a very complex issue. The bill that we originally considered in this place referred to the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998, which has subsequently been replaced by the National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009. The amendments replace the references to the old act—now defunct—with references to the new act.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The opposition accepts that simple explanation of that simple matter, and we are happy to move on to the next amendment.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Leave granted for amendments 4 and 5 to be considered together.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I move —

That amendments 4 and 5 made by the Council be agreed to.

Amendments 4 and 5 aim to provide greater clarification around the issue of declaring or revoking a declaration that part of a pipeline is part of an impact agreement pipeline. I ask for the indulgence of the house to read out this description: during the development of the regulations it became apparent that parts of a pipeline, such as the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline, may not be fully utilised, and therefore should not be covered by the provisions of part 2 of the bill, and instead be covered by part 4 of the bill. The example given by the Office of Energy is that, for example, if the Pinjar lateral, which is a small offshoot that feeds the Pinjar gas turbines north of Perth, has spare capacity and is not fully utilised, the gas producer injecting broader specification gas into the main pipeline should not be required to reinstate any reduction in capacity on this small lateral, and the operator will not be prevented from meeting its contractual commitments or deprived of the use of that reduction in capacity.

These amendments are really saying that when we make regulations and requirements for the main pipeline, they should not necessarily apply to small lateral pipelines that may not be at capacity and can be used—for example the Pinjar lateral—on an intermittent basis. The amendments clarify that; I hope that explanation has clarified it for people in the industry. I do not know whether it clarifies it for me, but I am told that it clarifies the matter.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am pleased that has all been cleared up, Mr Deputy Speaker!

Obviously, there is the main pipeline and then there are a range of offshoots from the main pipeline from Dampier to Bunbury, or indeed from Dampier to Kalgoorlie.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I think this refers to very small laterals such as a little pipeline that shoots off to a stand-alone generator. It does not refer to major ones such as Kalgoorlie or the mid-west pipeline.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think these laws apply to the Kalgoorlie pipeline in any event.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Yes, but these amendments relate to just a small pipeline that runs off to a factory or facility.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Are they referring to an offshoot from the Dampier to Bunbury or the Dampier to Kalgoorlie—the two main pipelines in Western Australia—or the other one?

Mr C.J. Barnett: Yes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The amendments refer to little offshoots that might be 10 centimetres in diameter and provide some gas to some facility. I was not quite sure what the Premier said, but is it right that the rules in place under these laws will apply to those smaller pipelines as well as the main gas transmission pipelines?

Mr C.J. Barnett: No, they are not intended to apply; they are intended to apply to the main pipeline. As the bill was previously drafted, apparently the smaller ones could be caught up in that regulation, which was not the intention. These amendments try to make it clear that those little offshoot pipelines should not be caught up in the overall regulation of the major pipelines.

Mr M. McGOWAN: But the main purpose of this legislation is to regulate the quality of the gas running through the major pipeline, so it cannot be said that the gas going through a minor pipeline can be of a different specification from the gas going through the major pipeline because that would be a physical impossibility. I do not quite understand why those smaller offshoots need to be differently regulated under this provision.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I think the point is that gas of a different specification can commercially affect the operation of a large pipeline, so there are various compensating agreements. These amendments are to ensure that a small pipeline running off to a specific facility should not be seen to adversely affect the operation of the main pipeline. In other words, we will not get into arguments about a small lateral when the main issue is the gas quality specifications and capacity utilisation of those two main lines that the member mentioned. The amendments make it clear that all these little laterals will not have to then be accounted for; they will basically be treated as superfluous and will be used to feed gas into a facility, and should not be subject to this degree of compensation and capacity calculations and so forth.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I accept the Premier's explanation, but I understand, from what he is saying, that the specification of the gas is not an issue; it relates to the regulation of the physical infrastructure, as opposed to the material running through it.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It is the capacity and volume, yes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: If that is the case, for the interpretation of anyone who might be reading this debate at some time, that explanation might well have cleared it up.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Someone will!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Insomniacs all over the world will read this, and it might assist them with their problem.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: With the greatest of respect to the member for Rockingham, we are talking about years of work by very eminent and well-paid lawyers, and to trivialise it, I think, is outrageous!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I just want to make sure that the lawyers of the world know—as well as the lawyers who worked on this important legislation—when they are reading this debate that I respect absolutely the important work they have done. I would hate them to think that the Premier had the last word in suggesting to them that I somehow trivialised the important work that they had done. But I think even they would have to admit that for the uninitiated to read this and attempt to make sense of it would put the most determined person to sleep.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I move —

That amendment 6 made by the Council be agreed to.

This amendment is to correct a drafting error. Clause 11(2)(b) contains the same wording as other dispute resolution provisions, such as that in clause 9(2)(b); however, this is not applicable for users of a pipeline impact agreement pipeline because their compensation entitlement is for adverse impacts on their rights under a pipeline service agreement. The wording of clause 11(2)(b) is therefore deemed to be inappropriate. It is possible that a gas producer and a pipeline operator could establish a pipeline impact agreement that disadvantages an existing user. Clause 11(1) enables regulations to establish a mechanism for users to be compensated for adverse effects on their rights. Clause 11(2) enables regulations to set up a dispute resolution procedure arising from this compensation. As currently drafted, clause 11(2)(b) enables disputes about the capacity, operations and maintenance of a PIA pipeline. This is not relevant in resolving disputes about the adverse impacts on a user's rights. This amendment links the dispute resolution to the provisions in clause 11(1). Again, it is complicated, but the amendment corrects an error in the original drafting.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I listened intently to the Premier, but I cannot say that it was clear to me. If it is a drafting error, it is a drafting error and it needs to be repaired. This provision determines how to proceed with arbitration on some aspect of a dispute. I am unsure from what the Premier said exactly which disputes it will cover and what it will resolve. I will not ask again, but perhaps the Premier can, just for my enlightenment, explain which particular disputes it may cover.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I have just been informed that basically it was a cut-and-paste error. The wrong dispute resolution provision was put in the bill. The wrong provision describing a dispute resolution process was put in the bill.

Mr M. McGowan: Are you suggesting that the lawyers just cut and paste to produce this legislation?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It was an omission. They are very highly paid craft workers!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Just in defence of lawyers, I am sure that they did not just cut and paste; I assume that there was some graver error involved in this that did not involve some faulty cutting and pasting on their behalf. I accept that the arbitration procedures, although often arcane and rarely looked at, become relevant at some point, and they become relevant for people with a great deal of money who have concerns with a matter. It can impact on jobs and investment in the state so it is important to get it right.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Leave granted for amendments 7 to 15 to be considered together.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I move —

That amendments 7 to 15 made by the Council be agreed to.

All these amendments are required because the bill refers to the Coordinator of Energy, whereas it has now been decided that the responsibility should be with the Director of Energy Safety. These amendments relate to the program to rectify household appliances so that they can function as they are meant to and also meet safety requirements. The point is that as gas quality specifications change, there may be a need to alter domestic appliances. Under the bill as it is currently, that responsibility is with the Coordinator of Energy. Quite appropriately, it has been deemed that that responsibility should lie with the Director of Energy Safety. All these amendments basically replace the references in the bill to “Coordinator of Energy” with the term “Director of Energy Safety”.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I would just like the house to know that I understood that explanation!

Mr C.J. Barnett: It is the only one that I have been able to explain competently!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I do not think that these amendments are required because of a mistake by the lawyers; I assume that the repeal of the 1988 act has resulted in this outcome, although I may be wrong. Obviously, for the sake of completeness and correctness, we need to ensure that the correct title of a position is mentioned in the legislation, as opposed to the title of a position that no longer exists, and I think that is what these amendments seek to repair.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No. I have just been informed that it was an agreement between the Director of Energy Safety and the Coordinator of Energy that it was better that this be the responsibility of the Director of Energy Safety. That seems self-evident to me, given that we are talking about domestic appliances and the rectification program. It was agreed that that was the best way to do it, and that is why the change has been made. It is a simple but logical change.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Leave granted for amendments 16 and 17 to be considered together.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I move —

That amendments 16 and 17 made by the Council be agreed to.

The reason for these amendments is exactly the same as that for the first three amendments. These amendments simply reflect that the National Gas Access (WA) Act 2009 has been passed by Parliament. When the Gas Supply (Gas Quality Specifications) Bill 2009 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 19 August, the National Gas Access (WA) Bill was not passed by Parliament and therefore could not be referenced in the Gas Supply (Gas Quality Specifications) Bill.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Again, I understood that explanation. These amendments seem to be reasonable and the opposition has no disagreement with them.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

The Council acquainted accordingly.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 12 March on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [7.39 pm]: I would like to comment on the Premier's priorities for the state and talk about the areas that have come to my attention and indeed are becoming increasingly important as we move through the economic crisis of the past 12 months and consider where the state is going in economic and social terms over the next two or three years. I will start by talking about cost-of-living increases in general, and then I will talk a little about some of the ways in which we provide services to communities through the work of non-government organisations, charities and not-for-profit organisations and the investment that is needed in them to meet the increasing demands of the community. I should also mention that when I am speaking tonight I am going to be drawing very heavily on the Western Australian Council of Social Service 2010-11 pre-budget submission to government, which has just been completed. The cost of living, as measured by WACOSS, between 2007 and 2009 has gone up by \$105 a week, which is nearly an 18 per cent increase in that two-year period. By comparison, incomes on average have increased by \$41 a week, which is about 5.1 per cent. It does not take much to see that the cost-of-living increases that affect each of us have been going up exponentially over the past couple of years. The people sitting in the chamber might not perhaps be familiar with what it is like to live on less than \$37 000 a year; or, indeed, if they are, it might have been a long time ago when they were living on that kind of income. The cost escalations that we have seen in the past 12 months under the Barnett government have contributed to a lot of the increases in costs of living.

It is well and truly understood that the cost of housing has had an exponential increase over the past few years, partly as a result of the economic good times and then the prices having not fallen anywhere near enough to help low-income or disadvantaged families, and even middle-income families. I will also talk about the situation for regional families and people living in rural and remote areas.

If members consider the cost of water and power, they will be very clear that there have been some enormous increases in those areas. There has been a more than 25 per cent increase in the cost of water, and power is going to increase even more. The cost of gas has increased by 24 per cent in the past 12 months. Food prices have gone up. We all know that rates have gone up as a result of this government's increase in and redirection of the waste avoidance and resource recovery levy. We are all paying more rates, including people on low incomes renting homes, to whom those increases are being passed on through rental agreements. The costs of transport and also health have gone up. The community is feeling a real and increasing level of hardship.

In my view, the Premier needs to pay more attention to the kinds of resources that the most unfortunate and disadvantaged in our community need to survive. The government needs to turn its attention to reducing homelessness for a start. Certainly, in my electorate, we are seeing more incidents that relate to what many in the community see as antisocial behaviour. There is an increasing number of homeless people on the streets—people struggling to find somewhere to sleep and sleeping rough in garages, laneways and alleyways, on doorsteps and under window frames. It is a very sad plight. We also see, as a result of increasing hardship in the community, crime increasing. We have been debating the increase in crime and antisocial behaviour in this house over the past three days. It does not just happen, and in many cases it is related to people who are abusing drugs and alcohol. The incidence of drug and alcohol use and mental health issues combine to create very complex problems for people who are sleeping rough and who do not have a home to go to. It is important that this government turn its priorities to those who are most hard hit at the moment.

We saw the government in 2009-10 strip \$17 million from amounts allocated to pensioners and from seniors' concessions, which meant that WA seniors were hit with a double-whammy of increasing living costs and decreasing concessions.

I now refer to a draft research report that the Productivity Commission released in October 2009 titled "Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector". This report will be finalised after consultations have taken place. I want to talk about a few of the key points that the Productivity Commission has raised that are of note to this discussion and to my concerns, and I think to the concerns of many members. Firstly, the not-for-profit sector in Australia is a large and diverse sector of around 600 000 organisations. The Australian Bureau of Statistics satellite accounts found that these not-for-profits contributed \$43 billion to Australia's GDP and eight per cent of employment in 2006-07. Over the seven years to 2006-07, the contribution to GDP had more than doubled in current price terms, and the not-for-profit sector contribution to GDP had increased from 3.3 to 4.1 per cent, reflecting strong growth in the sector over that time. There are 4.6 million people who volunteer with the not-for-profit sector, which has an imputed additional contribution to the GDP of \$14.6 billion. While those figures are really impressive, the Productivity Commission refers to other findings about what is happening in the not-for-profit sector. Many of us who go out into the community and who spend time with not-for-profit organisations and charities will understand.

Government has sought to increase accountability, and that is not a new phenomenon to this government. It has been fairly historical that most governments think that the not-for-profit sector might be a bit unruly and unwieldy, and they try to bring some order into it and increase accountability, particularly for funding or grants and purchasing agreements, to make sure they get the outcomes they want. In fact, "reporting requirements

associated with grants have become disproportionately more onerous without commensurate benefit.” That is a quote from the executive summary of the Productivity Commission’s draft report. The use of contracts and competitive tendering purchaser-provider agreements when engaging not-for-profit organisations to deliver government-funded services has grown. Although members on this side made some attempt while in government to curb that development around competitive tendering and perhaps temper it with a more realistic way of tendering with the not-for-profit sector, the facts are that the community service sector still feels that less than full-cost funding has resulted in many substantial wage gaps arising for not-for-profit staff working in community services. That has led to an incredibly challenging environment. It is pretty clear from the research that was done by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the disability sector about three years ago, and more recently by the Productivity Commission, that the difference in wages for the same work between a public servant and a not-for-profit employee is 30 per cent. Either not-for-profit employees are really wealthy and do not need to make a lot of money, or they are dismally poor and cannot get out of the sector but are looking for a job in a better-paid environment, such as a government job. It is hard to find staff and even harder to keep them when the wage difference is 30 per cent. Also, the overly prescriptive requirements, using micro-management and inappropriate short-term contracts, undermine the very reason that the government chooses to have these services delivered by the not-for-profit sector; that is, they perceive that the sector offers efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services.

I am very aware that the Treasurer or the ministers involved in the funding that is administered by the departments for which they have responsibility, possibly under the “Treasurer’s Instructions”, have limited not-for-profit funding for 12 months, with a promise of a review. That significantly reduces the income of these organisations. It means that they not only cannot attract and retain staff, but also lose enormous knowledge. That knowledge is what they bring to delivering critical and vital services, often life-saving services, to the community. By funding organisations for 12 months, the government might think it is doing something fabulous for its efficiency dividends. However, the government’s choice of a short contracting term is negatively impacting on the outcomes that can be delivered in this state.

The notion of client-directed funding models is being worked up under commonwealth guidance. While it has great relevance to the work that is being done, I issue a cautionary note to the Premier and Treasurer: what has happened, for instance, in the aged care sector is that because its funding formula is set so low, it is not worth it for not-for-profit organisations to submit a tender to deliver some of the services the government is asking them to deliver. That has been a well-proved fact in the aged care sector over the past five years. Organisations are not coming forward to put their hand up to deliver services. They cannot afford to deliver services at the level of funding that is being offered. My cautionary advice to the Premier in his priority setting around the efficiency dividend is to not cut off his nose to spite his face. If the government wants to be more than knee-deep in impoverished people who are struggling, it is certainly heading in the right direction by not rewarding not-for-profits with a fair amount of funding to deliver services to them.

I turn now to some specific areas that concern me around families and children in this state, including housing. For Western Australian families and children, an immediate injection of funding is needed, with a great part of it going into the preventive end of the services. I have mentioned child health nurses as one of the critical areas. Child health nurses give crucial support to the community in the areas of maternal, infant and family health in the early years. They assess children’s health and development and provide important support for, and information to, families on many aspects of parenting and family health. We know that sometimes parents have kids and they do not have this information. Again, that adds to the crime statistics and the poverty in the community. Child health nurses have long been regarded as a gateway to a wide range of services that can support mothers and their babies. They see and welcome almost all families with newborn babies and can facilitate supportive and community-building relationships between mothers through community mothers’ groups. I refer to the Western Australian Council of Social Service’s pre-budget submission, specifically as it relates to child health nurses. It states —

A Victorian child will have seen a child health nurse five times at four months old. A Western Australian child will not have seen a child health nurse five times until the age of 18 months.

Data shows Aboriginal parents and their children have even less contact with a health nurse, which falls away dramatically in the first 18 months.

In Western Australia there are 310 child health centres and most of them operate on an appointment system from Monday to Friday. However, some are open only part time. According to WACOSS, currently Western Australia is 105 maternal health nurses short to provide the basic health needs of a newborn child. Too few nurses and too many parents means that they cannot meet the potential of their roles. I ask the Premier and the Minister for Health to make sure that we have child health nurses in the community who can deliver to ensure not only that babies are born healthy, but also that they survive and thrive in their first 18 months of life.

I come now to housing, which is a huge area. One does not really know where to start or list priorities. The Treasurer has done some good work in starting to address housing issues in this state, particularly around social and community housing. However, there are some recommendations that I would like to mention to the Premier in my presentation, specifically on the private rental market. As many members have rented in the past or rent now, they know that the private rental market is crucial to the overall housing system in this state. It comprises 23 per cent of households in Western Australia and provides a home to more than 60 000 low and mid-income householders in the state. For most people on low incomes, finding a home to buy is a major challenge; therefore, the private rental market is the next best option available to them. As the cost of home purchasing has increased, so too has the cost of rental accommodation, affecting people from all wage brackets. Many people are now finding it difficult or impossible to find a rental property, let alone hold on to it. I remember seeing queues of people turn up to view one rental property. Following an advertisement cars were parked in the street and people were lining up to rent the house. In fact, it became an auction process to get a rental home; in other words, how much people would bid over and above the advertised rental price. The house went to the highest bidder. It was an extraordinary situation.

I refer to emergency accommodation providers in the state. The youth accommodation service in Victoria Park is a good example. I know of a young family, comprising a 19-year-old girl, her partner and their baby, who have been living in that accommodation. It was meant to be for three months only, but they have been there for two years because it was impossible for them to find a rental property let alone deliver the bond and the other costs associated with getting into it.

There are three very good recommendations from the WACOSS prebudget submission. One relates to the affordable rental brokerage scheme. It suggests that the Department of Housing would act as an intermediary between low-income households and landlords in the private rental sector. Therefore, landlords would rent their properties to somebody on a low income at 20 per cent below the market rent, but for a minimum of five years. The Department of Housing would guarantee that there would be no vacancies and also pay the real estate management fees on that property. That would be a very attractive scheme to somebody who has private rental accommodation. It would specifically help low-income earners.

The second recommendation is similar to a time-limited rental subsidy scheme that is modelled on the Queensland rent start scheme. That scheme helps those people who are currently unable to pay rent at the full market price, but expect to be able to do so as their financial situation improved. Under such a model, the rent paid by tenants is gradually increased over a four-year period until they are paying the full market rent. During the intervening period, Queensland's Department of Housing picks up the difference. That scheme is administered by that state's Department of Housing in conjunction with community housing providers. It is another really good example of a more creative way of addressing the housing rental market.

Finally—it sounds so simple—there a large number of four and five-bedroom homes. We are a nation that likes four-bedroom and two-bathroom houses. There are a lot of spare rooms in houses. A simple solution is an education program—a public scheme—to encourage homeowners to rent spare bedrooms to individuals and families. It is not for everyone, but it could take up some of the slack that is being experienced in the community. WACOSS has provided three simple solutions that should be given attention.

[Member's time extended].

Ms L.L. BAKER: While on the subject of housing, I will refer to rural and remote areas in this state. My comments will relate to not-for-profit organisations that deliver community services in the far extremities of this large state. The agencies that deliver these services are already facing acute problems. Members will know what they are. They include inadequate and extraordinarily costly housing for key workers. I can cite one instance from a couple of years ago. The chief executive officer of a small family service in the Roebourne area had been delivering that service, as the CEO, for about 17 years and had been paying about \$500 a week rent. The rent increased over the years. In the last three years of the economic expansion in that neck of the woods, the cost of the rent for that home increased to \$2 500 a week. That was significantly more income than the entire grant that the service received. There was absolutely no way that that was a sustainable method of trying to deliver a service, because the CEO of the service could not be housed, let alone any of the workers in the service. There is difficulty competing with the high-paying mining companies and other private sector companies, particularly for housing. There is a high turnover of staff simply because of the nature of the work. It is a very different environment, and if people go to rural and remote regional centres and are not familiar with the way life will be there, it becomes quite difficult for them. The turnover rate for CEOs is quite high, particularly in the Pilbara. It is about 18 months before a CEO of a community service in the Pilbara is turned over. There is inconsistent funding, along with uncertainty of continuity. Sometimes even the uncertainty of whether consumer price index increases will be added to grants is another problem. There is extreme difficulty in developing the workforce due to limited funds and increased distances.

The indexation amount would be at least a minimal increase that one would expect a service to be paid to deliver family support or domestic violence support or any one of a range of different services such as child protection or whatever it may be. We calculate that in a rural or remote area services need at least 20 per cent over and above the normal CPI to deliver a service. I think that bears thinking about, Premier. It is essential to try to make regional and remote services more sustainable and more competitive as employers.

I have some final comments to make in putting forward my priorities, which are certainly the priorities, I am sure, of many members in this house who are concerned about social justice issues and the effective working of the social side of our community, not just the economic side of it. The government needs to put far more funds into the community sector. We need to address the shortfall in salaries immediately. That requires a 30 per cent increase on all contracting. That is not about the CPI; that is just to enable those people to deliver the services that they are currently contracted to the government to deliver. They cannot deliver at that level any more. More and more people will choose to not enter into any more agreements as a result of the employment crisis, in particular. I believe that that is an area to which the Premier should be directing a lot of energy. I hope to see the community sector grow and be able to deliver services, particularly for the most vulnerable in our community.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [8.02 pm]: This speech will probably be a little different from my normal contribution to the debate on the Premier's Statement because I do not have 165 names to read out; I did not get enough notice.

I want to congratulate all members on both sides of the house for the way in which they treated Paul Andrews' family today and the respect they showed for Paul. I know that it was a very moving experience for Gim, and I spoke to Peter afterwards. It is something that they will remember for a long time. It made me proud to be a member of this house today, and I congratulate everyone on both sides.

First of all, I will talk about Grange Resources Ltd. The Grange Resources project has been going on for quite a while. Grange's main concern at the moment is that it is not getting its environmental permits, which it has been waiting on for a long time. When Grange first started, it was only a very small investor. However, it now has a large Chinese investor, Shagang, which has China's largest private steel mill. It will take half the product from Southdown, so this de-risks the project considerably. Sojitz, the joint venture partner, also has Japanese government investment through JOGMEC. Grange operates Australia's largest magnetite mine in Tasmania, so it is now a producer with cash flow. Its Chinese investors and Japanese partner struggle to understand the environmental permit processes, under which time frames promised are constantly missed.

With regard to the environmental permits, I have been led to believe that the mining permit should be signed off any day. The port permit application has been presented to the Environmental Protection Authority board, and it is hoped that a bulletin will be received in a couple of weeks. But, then again, promises such as this have been made for the past three to four months. I am sure that if this major mining company were located up north, it would already have its mining approvals or its environmental approvals. It is very disappointing. We see that everything up north goes through and is ticked off. This project is probably small from a mining perspective, but it is very important to our region. Once again, I think Albany is being neglected by the coalition government.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: What is it doing for power?

Mr P.B. WATSON: We put \$157 million in the forward estimates in the last budget before we left government for getting power for Southdown from Collie, I think it was.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: No. We put money in the budget for that—\$157 million.

Mr D.T. Redman: For the line to serve the Wellstead mine.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes.

Mr D.T. Redman: As I understand, that gets reimbursed from —

Mr P.B. WATSON: No. The government was putting up the money first to get the power there. Anyway, this is a company that should be encouraged. This project will be great for the region of Albany, and it will bring a lot of jobs. It will be a magnetite mine. They will take slush in the pipe from the mine through to the port, so extra money will also be generated for the port.

Development on the foreshore has been going very well. Our gold-plated entertainment centre is getting bigger and better every day. However, people who are not very happy about it are still sending me emails. They are calling it "Milton's Monster", so they are blaming the mayor now, which is good. It is taking a bit of pressure off me. It will be a tremendous centre, and I am sure that the Premier will be very proud to open that centre when it is finished. The rest of the foreshore development is coming along. I know that people are interested in putting a hotel on the foreshore. Great development is going on there.

The University of Western Australia development is something else that was being done under the Carpenter and Gallop governments. It is great to see that it is being continued by the current government. UWA is a very important part of our city and our region. The thing is that the young people from our city and from our region do not necessarily have to go to Perth for their university studies. While I am on this point, I must say that I am very disappointed with the federal government's youth allowance. The allowance was introduced to encourage people in regional areas to go to Perth to study. I have three children who went to Perth to study, and I have a sister in Perth who has three children who went to university in Perth. They received the same youth allowance that my children received. My children had to go to Perth. They went individually; they did not go together. They had to find a place to stay and find a job, whereas the kids who live in Perth go home to mum and dad at night and have their meals cooked for them. One of the reasons country kids are a lot tougher than city kids is that they have to do everything. I am bitterly disappointed with the federal government. There should be a special allowance for regional kids to encourage them to go to uni. Most of the bright people and top sportsmen come from regional areas. I am very disappointed at the decision made by the federal government. I have voiced my opinion to the minister on more than one occasion. I was glad to see that for the past 12 months the government paid the allowance to the children who already had work commitments. It is no good saying that they get a special relocation allowance. These kids have to leave home. My oldest daughter was 17 when she left. They have to go to Perth, find accommodation, cook their own meals, do their own washing and ironing and find a part-time job. Under this new system, kids have to have a break of 18 months. While they are working during the first 12 months, the gap year, the kids in Perth can continue for another six months because they are at home. The country kids have to do their 12 months at home and then for the next six months they are still working to get their hours up and earn more money. The federal government's decision was very disappointing. I will continue to attack it for that.

I would also like to talk about the tremendous job that the Clontarf Football Academy is doing in Albany. I will be talking about it during 90-second statements on Thursday. Young kids who did not go to school and who were not in the system are now in the system. Their attendance rate is tremendous. They are also becoming role models for the community.

I would also like to congratulate the Royals Football Club. It broke the monopoly of my team, North Albany, in the grand final this year. We saw a tremendous performance by Darrell Panizza and his young team. I begrudgingly say that it was a great effort.

I would like to talk about education support workers. I have had a lot to do with the lowest paid workers in the public service. These people have had their pay stopped, not docked, because they are working to rule. I remember when the police had their pay dispute. They stopped people who were speeding and did not issue speeding fines. Their pays were not docked. What happened to them? They were let off because they were members of a much stronger union. These education support workers are getting a pay rise of 46c an hour. When we consider that water, power and gas bills have all gone up by huge amounts and these people are the lowest paid in the public service, it is just not fair. It is a mean government that will not negotiate with these people.

I would also like to talk about the men's crisis centre in Albany. When we were in government, I set up a men's committee in Albany. Some men have nowhere to go. They are in a position in which violence restraining orders have been put on them and they have nowhere to go, so they sleep in their car or somewhere like that. They are in an emotional state and they have nowhere to go. We set up a group with the agencies in Albany. Once the government changed hands, I was no longer on the committee. It seems to be stalling at the moment. I know of a house owned by family services that would have been ideal. I congratulate the Minister for Housing and Works for the work that he has done. He is running into brick walls too. Two agencies are not getting together. If everyone sat down at a table, we could sort out this housing problem. Housing is desperately needed in Albany. There is a women's crisis centre, but there is nowhere for the men to go.

I turn to the Esplanade Hotel. Albany has the most expensive sandpit in Australia. We have a beautiful beach. There is a big sandpit opposite Middleton Beach where the Esplanade Hotel used to be. If an Australian company went to Indonesia or Thailand and said that it was going to buy a hotel right on the beach, demolish it and not build anything for three years, I am sure people would be in jail or shot or whatever happens over there. We have a situation in which the developers came in, bought the building and knocked it down straightaway. I should be careful what I say here because I know an investigation is going on into the legality of what was done by various companies. I think a really big story about this will come out in the next few weeks. I do not know how we will get around it and whether it is an issue that should be dealt with by the state government or the federal government. When an overseas company comes in, grabs prime real estate on a top beach, knocks down a building and does not do anything after that, surely there is something wrong with the system. We had a five-star hotel. I remember when the late Paul Terry knocked down the old Esplanade Hotel and built a brand-new hotel. When he built it, it looked like it had been there for a long time. It also had my photo in the sportsmen's bar, which made it a bit more attractive. Did members miss that? I have the photo at home; I will bring it in.

Something has to be done. We have this piece of prime real estate in our top tourist area and nothing is happening on it.

I have been approached by some of the authors in Albany, including John Doust, who wrote *Boy on a Wire*. He is one of the top authors in the area. A host of writers live in the area, not only in Albany but also in Denmark. The Premier's Book Awards had been in place for a long time. It was something that Western Australian authors could aim for, but it was taken away by the present minister.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It kept being won by overseas authors, that's why.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Only once. What is happening with it? It was taken away.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It will be reinstated but in what we consider a better format.

Mr P.B. WATSON: That is fair enough. I did get feedback that people from overseas had won it. I think it was won by someone in Asia.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Yes.

Mr P.B. WATSON: As long as something is happening, my constituents will be happy.

On Sunday week we have our seniors concert.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Are you starring?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am, actually; I am singing. If the Premier wants to come along, he is more than welcome.

Mr I.C. Blayney: What are you going to sing?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I have not worked it out yet. It was a bit scary last time I sang because all the oldies got really excited and threw their false teeth on the stage. This is something that members could do in their own electorates. We started these concerts at the Mount Lockyer Primary School hall in 2001. We had 35 people for the seniors concert. We pick up the people who can be picked up and take them to the venue. For those in wheelchairs, we organise for the wheelchair taxis to pick them up. They do that for nothing. We get local entertainers to entertain. We had 450 people last year. I like to think that someone would do that for my mum and dad. I am in a position in which I can do it. I have some tremendous helpers who help every year. We give them a cup of tea at the interval. That is served by the local schoolkids, so the oldies get to see the schoolkids. We give them lamingtons and cakes. They love it. I am proud that we have done it over the years; it is not only me, but also my staff and all the people who help. It is a tremendous concept. I picked up the idea from Hon Cheryl Edwardes, who used to do it in her electorate. All the helpers and I get more of a kick out of it than the oldies because we like to see them having fun. They love to see me making mistakes and telling bad jokes.

Mr C.J. Barnett: We see it on a daily basis!

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes.

This weekend we will be holding the Relay for Life. Relay for Life is a tremendous concept. The member for Geraldton has one in Geraldton, and the member for Roe has one in his electorate.

Mr T.K. Waldron: We have one, too!

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, the member for Wagin has one. The member for Joondalup also has one in his electorate. I am a member of the Fairy Slappers. I have a Fairy Slapper stubby holder on my desk in my office. A lot of people who come into my office say, "Who are the Fairy Slappers?" The Fairy Slappers are a group of ladies in Albany. They had a friend who died of cancer and left behind four or five children. They raise money for charity. In the first year, they raised \$11 000. Last year, they raised \$30 000. At their auction recently, they auctioned off a meal with me at Parliament House. A lot of people in Albany donated things for the auction. They are already up to \$30 000 for this year.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Actually, it was a guy who paid to have a meal with me, which is a bit of a worry! That relay will be held this weekend. The people from the local media—the *Albany Advertiser*—have been strong in promoting the Relay for Life, and they will have a team there, too.

Anzac Day in Albany will be very special next year, because we will be dedicating the new Anzac Peace Park. The Mayor of Gallipoli and the Mayor of Péronne will be in Albany for that ceremony. A lot of people probably do not know where Péronne is. It is just up the road from Villers-Bretonneux. There are museums there with photos and prints of Australian soldiers and other Allied artefacts from the war. Péronne is like Villers-Bretonneux, because the schools have a sign above the blackboards saying, "We must not forget the Australians". I am organising at the moment to try to get some of those artefacts out to Albany.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.B. WATSON: That will be a tremendous boost for Albany, because in 2014 it will be 100 years since the Anzacs left Albany to go to war. It will be a very big occasion. A ship will be coming from New Zealand and will be stopping in Albany on its way to Gallipoli. A lot of ex-servicemen have been saving for four or five years to pay off their trip so that they can be in Gallipoli on Anzac Day. Once the Peace Park is finished and we hold the major commemoration in 2014, I think people from all around the world will want to come to Albany to see the town that the Anzacs left from. There will be a centre at that park where people will be able to key into the computer the name of their granddad or great uncle and see where they went and get their war records.

I want to talk now about Middleton Beach.

Ms M.M. Quirk: How are the sharks going?

Mr P.B. WATSON: The sharks, yes! I was walking along Middleton Beach one morning about three weeks ago, and there was a whale and her calf rolling around in the water. I did not swim out there to find out exactly how close they were, but they would have been no more than 30 metres from the beach. Where else in the world can we walk along the beach at six o'clock in the morning and see that?

Dr G.G. Jacobs: Esperance!

Mr P.B. WATSON: No. These are real whales! The ones in Esperance are the plastic ones from royalties for regions! No. That was the cows!

People talk about all the great things they see overseas. Albany has got as much beauty as any place overseas. I agree that Esperance is a beautiful place. But we should be looking more at our own state. Now that we no longer have daylight saving, we can get up early in the morning and see these things; if we still had daylight saving, it would be too dark.

I must congratulate the Minister for Sport and Recreation for his support for the redevelopment of the Albany Surf Life Saving Club.

Mr T.K. Waldron: Has it started yet?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes. A builder was appointed last week, minister, so that is well on the way.

I would also like to congratulate Terry Eaton and all the guys at the Albany Police and Citizens Youth Club. I remember that when we were in government and we were looking to build the PCYC, we looked at the Geraldton PCYC. That was a bit left of centre. The clubhouse was a bit different from the other clubs we had seen, because it was built on different angles. We took that idea back to Albany, and we have adopted most of that concept from Geraldton. That club has been a tremendous success. Terry Eaton dedicates his life to those kids. We can find him there nearly every night. He drives the kids to sporting events, and he is there for all the music groups.

Mr T.K. Waldron: He is a tremendous fellow.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes. He is tremendous. He has dedicated his life to that club. He has a backup group there. That is a good facility in Albany for our youth. I think they are also looking at building a drop-in centre that the young kids can go to on a Saturday night.

The Albany Show was held last weekend. That was a tremendous success. There was a great National Party stall there. I did not see the minister there. I congratulate the Albany Agricultural Society for the excellent show it put on this year. However, there was a bit of a hiccup this year. The schoolkids generally get the day off on the Friday before the show. This year, the public schools said that the kids could not have the day off, but the private schools did let the kids have the day off. I went to the show on the Saturday and had a walk around, and there seemed to be fewer people there than is usually the case. I do not know whether the decision of the public schools had anything to do with that, nevertheless, it was a tremendous event. It was great to see all the animals that were presented, and the horsemanship by both the young and the old from our region. The Albany Agricultural Society does a tremendous job each year, and once again it excelled itself.

I also want to talk about retail trading hours. People in the city say that people in regional areas should not be voting on retail trading hours. Our main concern is obviously for the producers. We are also concerned that if extended trading hours are brought in in the city, it will be the thin edge of the wedge and it will happen in regional areas. In regional areas, the local governments make the decision on trading hours. They are right across what is happening in their communities. A referendum on trading hours was held a while back at the council elections, and people voted against extended trading hours. So, when people say that country people are against extended trading hours, that is only because we are looking after what our constituents want. People in regional areas want to spend Saturday afternoons and Sundays with their families. They also want to play sport. Sport is very important in regional towns, and it is something that we should encourage.

As I have said, I generally have the names of about 160 people whom I want to mention. Albany is ticking along very well. The foreshore redevelopment is going very well. I congratulate the current government on keeping it

going. There are concerns about some issues, but I will raise them in another forum. I do not think I have missed anything here. I support the motion.

DR J.M. WOOLLARD (Alfred Cove) [8.28 pm]: Mr Speaker —

Ms M.M. Quirk: You got up before the member had even finished! That is very rude!

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: What was that, member for Girrawheen?

Ms M.M. Quirk: Oh! You want to get home early! I forgot about that!

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: The member for Girrawheen is the one who wants to sit late, so she should be standing to speak at 10 o'clock at night, should she not?

I would like to take this opportunity, in my response to the Premier's Statement, to highlight to the Premier some of the problems that the cutbacks in health expenditure will exacerbate. I am not sure whether members are aware that we now spend less per capita on health than we did in the early 1990s. Successive governments have almost taken a smoke and mirrors approach by saying that they are spending more on health, when they are not really spending more on health, not if we look at the increase in population that health care now services. In the early 1990s, health made up about 24 per cent of the budget; that has now decreased to 22 to 23 per cent. Also, up until the 1990s the budget papers identified the funding for community and child health nurses and school health nurses. In approximately 1990, when a health reform was undertaken, they were suddenly brushed under the carpet and were no longer separately represented in the budget. As they were no longer separately represented, their needs were no longer identified and addressed. That was why, earlier this year in this house, the Education and Health Standing Committee, as part of its report into child screening, brought to our attention that we are 360 full-time equivalent positions short in child health nurses, school health nurses, and child development services. Bearing that in mind, we really should be looking at the budget to remedy this shortage.

Each time there is an election, both major parties, and the National Party, Mr Speaker—it is good to see you in this place—tell the community that they are going to fix health, education and law and order.

Mr J.E. McGrath: Who said that?

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: The member's party did. The Liberal Party stated in its election promises that it was going to address the problems in health.

How can the government address the problems in health if the healthcare dollars have been taken away? The government has introduced cuts in child development services—front-line services—necessary for children's emotional, social and educational growth. There have been cutbacks in funding for screening measures and treatments that children need such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy, as well as cutbacks in funding to social workers who work with children and their families to make sure they have all the resources they need. They are not being funded. I believe there should be funding for those 360 FTEs we are short, which, in a preliminary analysis, would equate to roughly \$60 million to \$70 million

In 2001, when the previous Labor government was elected, it organised for a review of healthcare services to be conducted, which resulted in the Reid report. That report was tabled in 2004, and part of it stated —

Good health and well being in the early years of life provides a solid basis for maintaining good health throughout adulthood. Investment in child, maternal and adolescent health is therefore an important component of reducing the burden of disease in the future.

We all know that one of the major problems in our hospitals at the moment is chronic diseases. The number of people being admitted with chronic diseases will continue unless we address the problems of health from infancy and childhood. The report further stated —

Recent surveys indicate that 86% of Western Australian children, as reported by parents, are in good health. Despite this, there are some areas of concern, including current indications that around 20% of children are overweight or obese. With obesity being a contributing factor to major diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and some cancers ...

The report went on to state —

The pathways to many diseases later in life appear to commence either during pregnancy or in early childhood.

And the report further stated —

Investment in maternal and child health can prevent, or minimise the impact of many diseases. A focus is therefore needed on the provision of maternal and child health services ...

The Reid report, tabled in 2004, identified the problems in child health, and the fact that it was an area that was being neglected by the health department, possibly because at that stage child health services came under regional structures in the metropolitan area and there was no overarching body.

Because of that, in July 2005 a child development service reference group was convened. It presented a report in July 2006 entitled "Future Directions for Western Australian Child Development Services". Up until then, child health services throughout the metropolitan area and throughout the state did not have a common tool for assessing children, and they were not collecting waiting list data. They were not identifying the different priorities in children's needs, and so it fluctuated very much from area to area in both the metropolitan and country areas. But then in August 2006, the Health Reform Implementation Taskforce presented a report, after which child development services were brought together under one hat and became the Child and Adolescent Health Service. Since 2006, all services have been able to use priority categories to assess children. The priority categories start at priority 1, which means that a child needs to be seen within four weeks, and go up to priority 4. Rather than go into priorities 1 to 4 for the different age groups, I will table that document.

Child development services can now ask the social workers, the occupational therapists or the physiotherapists, because there has been one databank since 2006, what the waiting list was for speech therapy for priority 1 children in 2006, and what the waiting list is now. The same goes for occupational therapy and for children who need to see a psychologist. One would have hoped that since those services were brought together under one umbrella, there would have been an improvement. Funding for community nurses, child development services and school health nurses has not increased for almost two decades. Even since the Liberal Party won the election, the delay for children waiting to receive those front-line services has increased. Today I was told that some of those front-line staff are not being replaced when they go on maternity leave. Obviously, I will take that matter up with the Minister for Health, because he said that there would not be any gaps in front-line services, but it is still happening.

After the Reid report was tabled, the former Expenditure Review Committee—which is now the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee and consists of the Premier, the Treasurer, the Under Treasurer, the Leader of the National Party and Hon Norman Moore, the Leader of the Government in the upper house—asked that the Health Reform Implementation Steering Committee be established. That committee was established and consisted of the Director General of Health, a representative of the Minister for Health, the Under Treasurer, a representative of Treasury and, initially, Professor Mick Reid, who wrote the Reid report. That committee was meant to meet for a couple of days every six months to look at the Reid report, the problems identified in the Reid report and how those problems were being addressed. At each meeting the committee was meant to look at the reforms, what had been achieved to date, the impacts on service delivery and the achievements that were planned for the following six months.

Mr Speaker, I could see you raise your eyebrows when you presented to the house the letter from the Education and Health Standing Committee asking for an extension of time, because that report was meant to be tabled this month. The committee has asked for additional time because the clinical services framework, which was meant to have been tabled six months ago, is currently with cabinet. I am very pleased that there are two ministers in the house at the moment—the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Minister for Education. I hope that when the clinical services framework is reviewed by cabinet, the ministers will say that there is a shortage of 370 full-time equivalent child and community health nurses, school nurses and child development services staff and will ask how this is being addressed and whether version 2 of the clinical services framework, which is meant to focus on the next five years, addresses those deficiencies. The Minister for Health was a member of the Education and Health Standing Committee during the previous government when the committee started the assessment of screening. I believe that he was aware then of the problems with child health services. I believe that is why he has given a commitment to improve those services, but he will need the support of his cabinet colleagues.

[Quorum formed.]

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: Version 2 of the clinical services framework is currently before cabinet. The Education and Health Standing Committee was made aware that, after the election, the government was given a business plan for the requirements for child development services. The committee is waiting to receive a copy of that business plan. It is taking a while to come to the committee; I think we asked for it several weeks ago. That business plan will have identified for the government the dollars that are required to bring Western Australian children's health standards up to the national standard. The health of Western Australian children is below the national standard. If children's services are not addressed adequately in version 2 of the clinical services framework, I hope that cabinet will send the framework back to the Director General of Health and ask the director general why they have not been highlighted as part of that framework. That needs to be done as a matter of urgency, because the Treasurer and other members of the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee will go into lockdown soon for the midyear review.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: When they do go into lockdown, I hope that they will look at the dollars being spent on health services and will appreciate that the per capita funding for health services has decreased and that the

increases projected in this year's budget analysis for the next few years of 12 per cent, 3.54 per cent, 4.11 per cent and 5.88 per cent are insufficient to address the problems with child health services.

I know that many members in this house will have been up since five o'clock this morning and will be getting very tired, as will the staff. I know that the Leader of the House wants to finish this debate this evening.

Ms M.M. Quirk: No, he doesn't. He doesn't want to finish tonight. He gagged us last week and stretches it out this week.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: I also think that some other areas need to be addressed as part of the midyear review. Underground power is one such issue. When that program was introduced by the Liberal government many years ago, it was meant to address older suburbs. More than 60 per cent of the older suburbs have underground power. My suburb is not one of those areas. I have a map showing where those areas are.

Mr T.G. Stephens: How many cyclones do you have through your suburb?

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: Did the member for Pilbara see the devastation at Bicton Primary School?

Mr T.G. Stephens: No.

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: Has the member for Pilbara had deaths from power failures in his area? We have!

We need more funding directed to underground power. My electorate has problems with traffic congestion, including the bottleneck at Canning Bridge, and the member for South Perth will agree that when people get off the train at South Perth, they have no idea which way to go or which bus to catch. The signage needs to be improved and the facilities for disabled people need to be improved. I have several schools within my electorate. The funding that was made available in this year's budget for roofing was insufficient. I have several schools that need —

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: There is one that should have been pulled down and replaced 10 or 15 years ago. The funding for roofs needs to be increased.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate and thank the members of the Education and Health Standing Committee who have all worked very hard. I would again like to bring to your attention, Mr Speaker, the inadequate resources that are provided to the committees of this house. The Education and Health Standing Committee has very good research staff, but we have had to turn away inquiries that have been referred to us by ministers; we have asked them to put these inquiries on hold because of the workload of the committee. The opposition has asked for inquiries to be held, and we have had to put those on hold. I am not sure about the other committees, but bearing in mind that education and health account for almost 50 per cent of the state budget I believe that if the committee received more resources, it could do a lot more to support the government in seeking an improvement in health and education. This goes back to the fact that at each election health and education issues are important. The committee would like to help with those improvements, but we need more support from you, Mr Speaker, if we are going to be able to do that.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [8.52 pm]: I have three matters I want to raise tonight—in fact, I have four matters. I did have three, but I now have a fourth, which is to talk briefly about the conduct of business in this chamber. Last week we debated a bill of great public importance and one that the public was very interested in, and members on this side of the chamber were gagged from speaking on that bill. Now we have a situation in which the Leader of the House is spinning the time of this session out with debate on the Premier's Statement and is being dilatory in producing bills to go before the house. On top of that, two bills are coming on tomorrow that have been declared urgent and the opposition has not even had the opportunity to see the bills. These are matters relating to criminal law that, in my view, require close scrutiny. I am incredibly disappointed with the way the business of the house is being run at the moment. The government is losing a lot of credibility. The government is simply not dinkum and it is treating this place with cynicism and contempt, and I am very disappointed.

I want to mention two local matters. The first of those matters relates to a house for wards of the state located in my electorate, in Marangaroo. These kids are wards of the state, and I think one or two of them may have been subject to some Department of Corrective Services scrutiny, but by and large they are not there as part of any Department of Corrective Services supervision measure or any order of the courts; they are there because they are wards of the state and the state has an obligation to look after them.

Having said that, the Department for Child Protection purchased this house and moved those kids in earlier this year without any consultation with the local community. The particular street in which the house is located is a cohesive community. Many people have been resident in that street for many years. There are a number of

elderly people there. There was absolutely no discussion with this local community about the presence of the house, the nature of the kids who would be present in this house, the level of supervision they anticipated would be present, or who to call if there were any problems. None of that was in place. These kids were moved in and then for many months the street was under siege. There was an increased prevalence of crime. I am not saying it was all the children in the house, but it was some of the visitors to the house, in some cases. Some of the elderly residents frequently had their doors knocked on at one or two in the morning; there were bricks thrown through windows, begging in the street and a range of other antisocial behaviours. Most of this was attributed to the house. We checked with the local police station and there was a fourfold reporting of incidents of crime in the street and precincts. When we attempted to engage with the Department for Child Protection and to consult with them about what was happening that took some time to arrange, and we had to arrange a couple of community meetings. From time to time in the house, supervisors were not present. When they were present, they were not much older than the children they were supposed to supervise. All in all, the saga has been most unsatisfactory and there were some concerns.

My constituents were very patient. They understood the circumstances of these kids and they were prepared to give them some leeway. However, the department has really let the side down. I am pleased to say, because it has been a saga and I think that people's patience has been pushed just that much too far, that I understand the house will be closed down in March and those children will be relocated. As I said, there was no consultation and there were unsatisfactory levels of supervision. When the problems escalated, the department employed private security guards. I understand that in recent months that has cost about \$30 000. This is a department that is by all accounts stretched for resources. One wonders, with the relocation of these children, whether the next community has to go through the same exercise. I hope that the minister and the department has learnt from this situation and will put in place a template of community consultation and a level of supervision that will mean the local community is no longer concerned about what is happening in the house and that there is greater supervision and neighbourhoods are not disrupted.

As I said, the house will be closing in March, but that is after a petition, numerous representations to the minister and two or three public meetings and I think a number of letters from me to the neighbourhood updating them on what was happening there. We have wards of the state all over Western Australia, and there must be a better way of accommodating them and working with the community to ensure that these children who have come from very sad circumstances can have a normalised existence. Setting up these children in the way that the department has done is not the way to do it.

The third issue that I will raise relates to the abolition of the high school fee subsidy to high school students. This abolition occurred in this year's budget to commence next year and it amounts to about, in the early years, \$100 per student and in the latter years of high school \$200. The high schools in my electorate and adjacent to my electorate will, on average, lose about \$70 000 in income next year. It is a matter of great concern to the P&Cs and school communities more generally. These are not wealthy schools and they do not have great capacity to raise funds through their parent body or the P&C. These schools really do it hard and they do not have the capacity to collect fees. I repeat that each of these schools will be out of pocket by about \$70 000 a year. I think that what the state government hopes will happen, although I have not spoken to the minister about this, is that some of these schools will be able to pick up, through the backdoor, some money from the commonwealth because they fall into the category of "disadvantaged schools". That is cost shifting at the most cynical level. In the meantime, these school communities are extremely worried about their revenue source drying up. The government should rethink its actions. It is appalling to take money from those who have such high needs.

The final matter I will talk about relates to road safety in Western Australia, in particular in regional Western Australia. I will talk about this tonight because we are coming to the end of the year when people focus on the road toll and road safety. The road toll in remote and regional Western Australia is escalating at present and it is a matter of great concern.

We all accept that Western Australia is a vast state. There are varying demographics of culture and geography and it is very difficult to meet the objectives of road safety throughout the state, given this diversity. I am pleased that the number of fatalities are down significantly in metropolitan Western Australia, but we have not had the same success in remote and regional Western Australia. The number of road deaths and critical injuries is trending upwards. Country fatalities this year to date are up to 106, which is the highest for some years with the exception of the horror year of 2007 when it was 123 at this time of that year. However, the critical injuries figure stands out in the statistics. Currently that stands at 177, which far exceeds the past five years' figures by a significant amount. The total fatalities and critical injuries together, year to date, is 492 and that exceeds the past four years by a substantial margin. What then are the causal factors creating this situation? The opposition would say that those causal factors are things that are squarely within the control of the state government.

We have a situation where regional and remote Western Australia makes up 40 per cent of the population but has 60 per cent of the road deaths. This means that if we are serious about doing anything about the road toll we need

to focus on remote and rural Western Australia. There is broad consensus, based on substantial evidence, on how we go about that and that evidence is based on substantial research in Western Australia, nationally and internationally. This boils down to four cornerstones, which are the four cornerstones of the so-called Towards Zero road safety strategy, which the government endorsed earlier this year. Those cornerstones are, firstly, safe road use, which encompasses education for road users, enforcing road rules and enshrining measures to encourage good driving habits.

Secondly, the clear focus needs to be on safe roads and roadsides with a view to preventing death and serious injury by improving safety on our roads and roadsides so that crashes are less likely to happen. This, of course, requires investment through programs such as Safer Roads, black spot funding, sealing shoulders, installing proper edge lines and similar measures. This is particularly germane to our regional areas.

The third plank is that of safe speed; that is, ensuring that we implement better speed enforcement, target speed limit reductions and implement education campaigns around speed reduction.

The final objective is to prevent death or serious injury by increasing the purchase of safer vehicles with specific safety features—such as those recommended by the Australasian New Car Assessment Program ratings—to educate the public on what are safe vehicles. I have just ordered a new car and I was amazed at the plethora of safety options I could order for it. I am looking forward to it arriving.

It is apparent from these objectives that they are comprehensive and ambitious and we will not be able to achieve them in a short time or in a piecemeal manner. They are clearly inter-related and focusing on one aspect and ignoring the others will largely be ineffectual. On the other hand, focusing on all four objectives at the same time would have a multiplier effect. These four cornerstones form the basis of the Towards Zero strategy, which was endorsed by Minister Johnson in March this year. It followed widespread community consultation and has bipartisan support. The consultation with the community was one of the largest that has taken place anywhere in Australia on the issue of road safety.

They say that actions speak louder than words and in terms of road safety the past 12 months have been distinguished as lacking a coherent whole-of-government approach and a lack of tangible commitment through funding measures in a range of areas.

In view of the statistics this impacts disproportionately on regional Western Australia and I want to spend time on cataloguing the lack of tangible support given by the state government to comprehensively address road trauma. The first disappointment is this government's failure to top up the road trauma trust fund to \$15 million. This fund is responsible for road safety campaigns and targeted grassroots RoadWise programs through local government. The source of the road trauma trust fund is that under law one-third of the revenue from red light and speed camera fines is directed to that fund. Under the previous government, if the revenue did not reach \$15 million the government committed to top up to that figure so that these campaigns could be maintained and planning for future years could be undertaken. This year the government would not top up the road trauma trust fund and there was a shortfall of \$2.5 million.

In the south west, for example, the RoadWise office based in Bunbury coordinates 16 local government authorities from Mandurah to Manjimup and Boddington to Boyup Brook. Valuable and award-winning work is being undertaken in collaboration with industry and local government for safe systems to be implemented in the workplace. This has flow-on effects to the lives of workers' families as well. In the Kimberley a RoadWise project has been undertaken around wearing seat belts and in the Pilbara on the proper fitting of child restraints. These projects are grassroots and are formulated by local communities to address specific road safety issues in the local area.

On a recent visit to Newman the RoadWise committee undertook the exercise of cutting a couple of people from a motor vehicle to illustrate what happens when there is a motor vehicle accident. They were not just any crash test dummies who were used; they were Hon Sally Talbot, MLC, and the member for Pilbara, Hon Tom Stephens. My colleagues volunteered in the interests of educating the local community about what happens when the firefighters have to cut out victims of a car accident. The firefighters were worked on the car for about an hour in 40-degree heat to get those victims out. I think that deserves special mention.

I should also congratulate the many volunteers who work and participate in these RoadWise initiatives, which also include, of course, the valuable Driver Reviver stations. Fatigue is, of course, one of the drivers of road trauma, and measures such as the Driver Reviver stations save lives. However, skimming the road trauma trust fund moneys prejudices some of these programs. It is false economy when it is calculated that the average financial cost of a single death or serious injury is \$600 000. Of course, it is not possible to measure the emotional toll of road trauma on families and loved ones.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: If the minister needs to be somewhere else—he has heard all this before—he should please feel free to leave.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I was going to compliment you on the content of your speech until you started the usual thing of having a go at me. Basically, I agree entirely with what you are saying about the volunteers and all those people who do those wonderful jobs. But you can't help yourself, can you?

Ms M.M. QUIRK: No, I cannot, minister. When I made the assertion of fact that the road trauma trust fund was being short-changed this year, the minister said that it was a one-off occurrence and that once the number of speed cameras had doubled at some indeterminate time in the future, not only would the road trauma trust fund be at unprecedented levels, but also the government coffers would be bulging. We learnt today in question time, however, that these much-promised cameras are some little time off. In fact, I think the minister said that the police were still preparing their business case, and then, of course, there is the tendering process after that.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Can I just explain for your information that I promise that I will double the number of cameras by next June; okay?

Ms M.M. QUIRK: June; all right. That is something to look forward to, minister.

Mr R.F. Johnson: You said that we do not know when it will be because of the business case. The business case is not about whether we need to double or treble the number of cameras; it is about whether it is viable and in the best interests of the taxpayer that we contract out certain parts of that. That is as far as that goes. But it won't decrease the number of cameras, I assure you.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I thank the minister very much. That will go ahead; the government will purchase those cameras. If it is recommended that the government go a certain way, it may well be that it is cheaper for the contractor to purchase the cameras rather than government.

Mr R.F. Johnson: No, it won't be.

Mr J.E. McGrath: They're all going into the northern suburbs.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Excellent. That is all right.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I'm going to saturate Girrawheen.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Excellent.

Mr R.F. Johnson: No, only kidding!

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I have cruise control and I also have a special little thing that I am trialling for the Road Safety Council of WA that beeps at me every time I even look like I am thinking about going over the speed limit.

Enforcement is only one element of a four-pronged strategy. It seems to me that the government has put all its eggs into one basket, and by doing so it is failing to deliver on road safety outcomes. I contend, however, that even if we focus only on the enforcement side, the government is failing even on that front.

In this year's WA Police annual report there were some sobering figures. Over the past year, patrol hours have dropped by almost 200 hours, and the number of vehicles stopped has dropped by more than 8 000. The so-called "none speed camera contacts" figure has dropped by more than 3 700, and the number of drink-drivers tested has dropped by more than 6 000. I believe that these figures are evidence that despite assurances that the three per cent efficiency dividend would not impact on front-line services, it clearly is doing so.

These figures are not a statistical curiosity only, because they also translate into reality; that is, a perception by the public that the chances of being apprehended by police are very much reduced. A recent attitudinal survey of drivers that was conducted by Main Roads and the Office of Road Safety indicated that almost a quarter of those surveyed had driven close to or over the legal blood alcohol limit in the past 12 months. The survey also showed that the perceived likelihood of being randomly breath tested was relatively low, especially on a weeknight, and almost half of those surveyed admitted to using a mobile phone other than by hands free, and that included sending text messages.

People expect to encounter police on the roads. Instead, we encounter nonsensical decisions such as the decimating of the police motorcycle squad. It has gone from 94 down to 30. In the south west of Western Australia, for example, this means that five motorcycles were removed. I am happy to say that two will shortly be returned. However, this will not be for traffic management, but for events management, such as large functions at Leeuwin Estate or the like. Similarly, we also hear that drug-driving testing has decreased by 20 per cent. The government has also broken its election promise to purchase two additional drug buses from this year's budget, and the money set aside for this has been diverted elsewhere. Given that there is only one drug bus in Western Australia, the failure to deliver on this promise will almost certainly mean that the existing bus will rarely be deployed in regional Western Australia. This is of major significance in the regions, and the prospects of those driving under the influence of drugs being apprehended is minimal. In this context, I would have also thought that there is some merit in the south west having a dedicated booze bus, which it certainly does not have currently.

Leaving enforcement aside, the issue of safer roads and roadsides is a key element of any road safety plan in the regions. With hundreds of thousands of kilometres of roads, it is imperative that regional roads get their fair share of funding targeted at improving bad road design, as poorly maintained roads are the cause of many accidents. Despite country roads being disproportionately represented in the road trauma statistics, funding is inversely proportional to these figures, with the vast bulk going to metropolitan roads. For example, in this year's budget, out of a total of \$974 million in specific new projects, \$764 million is for city projects and only \$210 million for all of regional Western Australia. Of particular concern in this area are decisions such as cutting the \$25 million budget for the Collie Coalfields highway that was promised at the last election. Given the increase in industrial and mining activity along this road, this is a false economy.

Earlier this year, the Royal Automobile Club of WA, which represents 700 000 members in Western Australia, presented to government a regional roads rescue program. In that document, the salient point was made that in 2003, 57 per cent of Victoria's road deaths—it is a similar proportion to that of Western Australia—were regional, but that by 2007 that figure had been reduced to 45 per cent. That had occurred because improving regional roads had been made a top road safety priority, and significant funding was invested to support that priority. The RAC believes that similar outcomes could be achieved in Western Australia. The RAC also commissioned an assessment of the regional highway network, and it found that more than 1 000 kilometres did not have a satisfactory road safety rating. Coupled with this is the expectation that freight traffic is set to double over the next two decades.

It seems to me that there is much that can still be done with regional roads. I believe that the RAC's contention that there needs to be an urgent lifting of the safety standards on our regional road network requires a concerted effort and significant funding over at least a decade. This conclusion is also shared by the Auditor General, who brought out a report in June this year titled "Maintaining the State Road Network". Despite all this excellent work and solid evidence, the issue of regional road funding and the positive impact this could have on regional road safety, the RAC's plan that was presented to the government has been rejected out of hand. Despite its ostensible commitment to Towards Zero, in this year's budget the government only funded the \$30 million that is required to purchase a digitisation platform for speed cameras. In other words, in committing funding to the four cornerstones of the strategy, only that which would raise revenue received consideration. On the issue of revenue, it is predicted that the speed and red-light cameras will pump an additional approximately \$200 million into the state coffers over the next four years. None of this has been earmarked for road safety and certainly none has been earmarked for road safety in the regions.

I made the point earlier that any response to the road toll has to be a whole-of-government one. The implementation of the Towards Zero strategy is oversighted by the Ministerial Council on Road Safety. It comprises the ministers for police, health, education, transport, planning, local government and regional development. They all have to be held accountable for the lack of real commitment to this strategy, which could potentially save more than 6 500 lives on regional roads over the next 12 years. That would save the community over \$3 billion. This is above and beyond the cost exacted on family, friends and colleagues by the death or serious injury of their loved ones. The zero in Towards Zero stands for zero funding and zero commitment. Every one of us has in some way been touched by road trauma and knows someone who has been killed or seriously injured. In small communities around Western Australia the loss is felt even more acutely.

Although road safety is the responsibility of us all, there is a part for government to play. We call on the Barnett government to make a concerted and genuine investment and commitment to reducing regional road trauma.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Mindarie) [9.22 pm]: I rise to highlight what a terrible kick in the guts the royalties for regions program has been for the electorate of Mindarie and what a vicious blow it has been to all the families in the electorate of Mindarie. That Aussie phrase "what a terrible kick in the guts" is so descriptive and so apt for what this program of royalties for regions has done to the families in Mindarie. We are on the outer edge of the metropolitan area; in fact, the northern boundary of my electorate is the northern boundary of the metropolitan area, so we are at the far reach of where services need to be.

I will go through some of the things that have been snatched away from the electorate of Mindarie to help fund royalties for regions. It is profligate spending beyond reason when my constituents read in the paper how much has been lavished on the hamlet of Capel in terms of walkways, cycleways and parks. We read in *The West Australian* that the officers down there in Capel do not know what to do with the money. Whilst this is happening, program after program and commitment after commitment in Mindarie is cancelled to pay for it. For example, two budgets ago \$2.5 million was set aside to build a modest swimming pool in Mindarie. We have had a huge population explosion and a huge explosion of children and youths aged between zero and 15. We have seen some recent social problems in the electorate. Young people with lots of time and little to do out in Mindarie got involved in a highly publicised fracas at Claytons Beach. We had hoped to have a swimming pool, a water polo club and some other sporting activities to engage the local children. The \$2.5 million already

allocated—it was already sent across to the Department of Sport and Recreation to pay for it—was ripped out and Mindarie was told, “No hope, forget it.”

Then there was the promise by the Department of Education to do up the 45-year-old Quinns Rocks Primary School, which as far as I can tell was established back in the 1960s. It may have been established in the 1950s. I can trace it back to the 1960s when Quinns was a holiday hamlet, only accessible down Quinns Road after leaving Wanneroo Road. It was miles out. It urgently needs money spent on it. The floors are unstable. They are at an angle in some of the rooms because the stumps have slumped. Leach drains in the sewerage system have collapsed. I had to play Kenny and help the school with its portable toilets because they had been knocked over by vandals and the excrement was going through the playground. It was a dreadful state of affairs. We have all this lovely housing around there and the kids have to attend a school that is screaming out for some attention. That is why the education department promised \$3 million for refurbishment and renovations. People in the metropolitan area should not have to go to that sort of an education asset but they have to because the \$3 million was ripped out and posted down to Capel so another bike rack could be built. What a disgrace!

The member for Wanneroo can bear me witness on this one because I know he is very familiar with the town of Yanchep. Two years ago the junior high school up there was told that it is below standard. I know the member for Wanneroo has visited it himself. It is below standard by a country mile. The headmaster was told by the education department that there is no hope of looking for refurbishment or upgrading in the life of this Parliament. This is Yanchep. It is no longer a fishing hamlet. This is the breaking wave of development. Marmion Avenue has now been constructed. For those people who have not been out there for a while, it has been opened for nearly a year.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: You got a nice new road then.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Yes, we have. The Liberal government did not pay for it so the member for Scarborough should not chirp in with her smart comments. The developers paid for the road, as the member for Wanneroo can attest. Tokyu Corporation paid for the road to help Yanchep develop. We have seen all the blocks for sale in the paper. I think \$195 000 would buy a nice block in Yanchep very close to the ocean. Families are starting to move out there and they have this dreadful education asset that has been screaming out for refurbishment and repair. The money is not available because it was posted down to Capel for another bike rack. There is only one sportsground in Yanchep. It will lose footballers from the Yanchep football team because the juniors have nowhere to play because of overcrowding. They all have to fit on one football ground. Perhaps that is beside the point. The football ground is not the screaming priority out there; it is these educational assets.

That brings me back to Quinns and infrastructure assets. The Quinns residents were promised that definitely by next year the deep sewerage works would be starting. They got put on the waitlist because the sewerage treatment works in the area were overloaded and more and more allotments were being developed to the north through Brighton and Butler. The sewerage works could not cope, so residents were promised that when Alkimos was being built and as soon as it opened, which is to be next year, the last pocket of unsewered land up there would be put on sewerage. A lot of the streets had the pipes dug in. The Water Corporation told the residents that by 2008 they would be connected. In 2008 it said they would have to wait for Alkimos. They waited for Alkimos and now the government says, “No way.” Where has the money gone? It has gone to royalties for regions. What a disgrace! They are swimming in it down there whilst my constituents are swimming in effluent out at Quinns. It is just not good enough. That was a terrible kick in the guts for all those families out there.

That is just so typical of this government. This government is always trying to get a headline on the news on a Sunday by putting out a press release about how it is going to lock everyone up forever, or about how it is going to reinstate the Graffiti Task Force. In Mindarie, we started a community movement called People Against Vandalism, or PAV. The Liberal member for Wanneroo can testify to this, because he knows all about it as a former councillor of the City of Wanneroo. This is not something that is to the merit of the previous Labor Government. It is to the merit of the community. The community was sick of the graffiti and the vandalism, and it wanted to do something about it, and that is how PAV came about. It was actually started by an octogenarian by the name of Tom Drinkwater. He is a marvellous man. He has been a Liberal voter all his life. That does not matter to me. He motivated the residents of Butler and Brighton to do something about the graffiti problem. Tom and I, together with Dave Mallett, a community leader from the suburb of Butler, approached a number of organisations to see whether they would help us in the fight against graffiti and vandalism in the electorate of Mindarie. We approached Mr Satterley from Satterley Property Group, and he very generously made a donation to help us get going. We approached people from the Toyota motor company, and they sold us a new Toyota HiAce at a very reasonable price, and they also provided some Toyota financing. We also approached the City of Wanneroo when the member for Wanneroo was a member of the council. The City of Wanneroo pitched in by supplying chemicals to remove graffiti and training people on how to apply those chemicals. Finally, we approached the committee that was chaired by the member for Perth and that was dividing up the money from

the confiscation of drugs. It was not pork barrelling for Mindarie. This organisation itself—not the member for Mindarie—made an application for that funding. It was supported by the police. I remember Deputy Commissioner Dave Lampard coming to a little function that we held and presenting the organisation with a cheque for \$80 000. That enabled PAV to operate two vehicles in the northern suburbs. The good thing about PAV was that it was manned by volunteers. A lot of those volunteers were retired people. They loved and cared about their area. They worked in concert with the local schools on education programs to teach the children about the social costs and consequences of graffiti and vandalism. At the same time, we started up a modest reporting system that operated out of my office and Clarkson Library. That reporting system enabled children to dob in a graffiti vandal, quite anonymously, and they would get a small reward of, I think, \$50, if it led to the conviction of a graffiti vandal. People were convicted in Joondalup court because they had been dobbed in by their peers through this anonymous dob-in form at the library and at my office. This obviously caused other students to become less brazen or comfortable about vandalising our suburbs, because they did not know whether their peers would be taking their photograph with their mobile phone and would be dobbing them in to collect the \$50 reward.

The upshot of all the hard work that was done by PAV was that the *North Coast Times* wanted to do a story about how we were removing the graffiti. They sent out their photographer to Clarkson at the appointed time to photograph some graffiti being removed from a wall. The only problem with this whole exercise was that we drove around Clarkson with the photographer, and we could not find any graffiti anywhere, so they had to change the story that they wrote. What was happening was that anyone could ring PAV at any time—everyone knew the number—and the graffiti would be removed from their house within 24 hours, free of charge. There was a modest charge for businesses of so much a linear metre, and that was used to fund the chemicals that were used to keep the whole show going. The community was also paying a small monthly lease fee for the Toyota HiAce vehicles. I must say that those vehicles were very professionally fitted out.

I am very sad that, today, I rose to speak in memory of the late Paul Andrews. May he rest in peace. I am very sad also that, today, I rise to speak in memory of PAV. PAV has folded. It is dead as a dodo bird. It is dead because this lousy government would not let any further funds come out of the confiscation of drugs moneys, or anywhere else, to keep this community organisation going. This was a leading model in Perth, because it showed other electorates and other communities how they could take ownership of graffiti vandalism and how families could become involved in the eradication of graffiti. PAV was not just a graffiti hotline that people would ring up and someone might or might not come in the next week to clean the graffiti off the house. This was bang; done—as soon as people rang up PAV, the graffiti would be gone. The people of the electorate of Mindarie are proud that people could drive around the suburbs of Clarkson, Merriwa and Ridgewood and not find any graffiti.

The demise of PAV was another kick in the guts for the people of Mindarie from royalties for regions. The government is scouring money from every little piggy bank in the city so that it can get more money to post to the bush. The government stole \$25 million from the capital equipment fund that was used to keep Royal Perth Hospital going, just so that it could ship some money to Capel for the building of a bicycle rack. It is disgraceful the price that the people of Mindarie have been required to pay to fund royalties for regions.

I will go through it again. We have lost our swimming pool. That money was there, but it has gone. That is too bad for the students of Mindarie. I can tell members that in the Western suburbs, where the Premier lives, where the Minister for Education lives and where half the cabinet lives, they have swimming pools at Bold Park, at Challenge Stadium, at Christchurch Grammar, at Methodist Ladies College and at Scotch College, and even at my old school, Nedlands Primary. That is a state school, but it has its own swimming pool. There are swimming pools everywhere, and they are very heavily used; it is hard to get lane time. But in my area, we were given the toffee apple. We were told, “Here is the millions of dollars that you need for your pool; just get out and construct it.” But that money has gone. It has been stolen from us. It is the same as the money for Quinns Rocks Primary School. That money has been stolen from Mindarie and has been shipped to the bush. Why does the government hate Yanchep so much? Why is the government leaving the people in Yanchep struggling with the high school asset that they have got? It is because Yanchep is an old suburb. It was built way back in the 1960s. When it was built, it was only a village. Why has the government done this? It has done this just so that it can hold onto government. The other thing I need to mention is Butler high school. I do not know how I could ever have forgotten about that. We heard in an answer to a question on notice to the Minister for Education that that school is not going to open in this term of government.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The area of Butler developed from land brought on to the market by the state of Western Australia—LandCorp—in concert with developers. At that time, the people who bought land in Butler were told that there would be a train station and a high school at Butler, so they could move all their families in because it was going to have the infrastructure. The first thing the current government did after it was elected was to suspend the northern train line whilst it did the 2020 transport review. That provoked, as members remember, a

huge demonstration that was publicised on page 3 of *The West Australian* and on the front of the local newspaper. The government relented and said that it would build the rail line out through there, but is not the devil always in the detail, Madam Acting Speaker (Ms L.L. Baker)? If members read through the transport budget line by line, they will see that there will not be a train station in Butler during the life of this Parliament. The government will ask the public to elect it again because it has allowed \$30 million for all the planning, and it will ask the public to put it on trust and elect it again and it will build a station some time after February 2013. These people have been suckered once; they should not be suckered again.

When the land was sold to all of these people, they were told that they would have a high school in Butler. That school was due to open in 2011, but having received an answer to a question on notice from the Minister for Education, it is now apparent that there will not be a high school operating out there until the next Parliament. All of those people with children in year 4 who go to Butler, East Butler and Brighton primaries—forget it! They will have to send their children somewhere else.

The price paid by the electorate of Mindarie to fund the royalties for regions program is a disgrace. It has paid an exorbitant price with community infrastructure, with education, with sewage and with graffiti removal. If members consider how much money has gone into Capel, all the electorate of Mindarie needed to keep the best graffiti-busting brigade in Western Australia going was \$80 000! That \$80 000 would have kept us going for a couple of years with our two buses; now we have to strip them out, take them back to Toyota, and see how much we will go broke for. We will have to see how much these lovely people who got this graffiti-busting brigade going, which is an incorporated body, are down the tube for, because they have to hand back the Toyota HiAces. For any members who are interested, we are having the wake in Parliament House next Thursday week, outside the Aboriginal People's Room. These people are members of the community who came along and put so much effort into getting up every morning, on a roster; putting on their white overalls, manning the bus; and going and cleaning the graffiti. It has all amounted to just a pile of dust because no-one in the government cared a rat's tail how much the people of Mindarie love their electorate, how much pride they took in it, and to what extraordinary lengths they went to clear graffiti off walls and fight vandalism. I give Mr Tom Drinkwater special acknowledgment for his effort in inaugurating People Against Vandalism, and I thank Mr Dave Mallett—the brigade leader from Brighton—very much for all the work he and his team did. I am very, very sorry I have not been able to achieve, for those people, in the Parliament of Western Australia, some modicum of reason from the government. There is so much money floating around in these funds to help community projects, I would have thought that People Against Vandalism, which got on top of vandalism and graffiti in the electorate of Mindarie, would have merited some support from the confiscation of drug money; no. The government said, "Get away from us", and flicked us away, even though the police thought that this was fantastic.

Finally, we urgently need other infrastructure out there, and nothing is more urgently needed than closed-circuit television in the Lighthouse Park area, which runs between Marmion Avenue and Mindarie Beach proper, because we have got this greenbelt running through there where gangs of youths from the eastern side of Marmion Avenue, from Merriwa and Ridgewood, who have little to do with their time because we do not have a movie theatre out there, we do not have a swimming pool, and we have little sporting facilities and they float through this area causing antisocial problems. We urgently need lighting in that area and we urgently need CCTV. I know that that is a primary responsibility of the City of Wanneroo, but the ratepayers should not be expected to foot the bill.

Although it has all been a mean and lousy effort by this government in respect of the electorate of Mindarie, it would not be right of me to not, however, acknowledge the efforts of Hon Peter Collier, who kept our TAFE campus on course. I fought very hard for that for four years. It looked as though it was going to go under when the government came in, and credit where credit is due, Hon Peter Collier stood up to the government and fought for the continuation of the budget to allow the Clarkson Campus of North Coast TAFE to stay ahead, and we have just had the turning of the first sod there.

I will conclude where I started: all this community infrastructure has just gone by the by under this regime of royalties for the regions, which has proved nothing more than bit of a kick in the guts for the community in the electorate of Mindarie.

Question put and passed.

CANNABIS LAW REFORM BILL 2009

Second Reading

Resumed from 14 October.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.47 pm]: I thank the chamber for the opportunity to speak on the Cannabis Law Reform Bill 2009 tonight. I inform the minister that I am the lead speaker on this bill, and I rise to speak on it with some pleasure because it is a very important piece of legislation for the Labor Party. It is one that we had, in some respects, in the chamber locked and ready to go. We, of course

had a different approach; ours made amendments to the Cannabis Control Act 2003, but the current government has chosen a different course.

This bill was one of the government's 100-day promises. It was one of those items that it signalled as an indication of its readiness to govern. Coalition members told the Western Australian public that it should vote for them because it was ready to go and this legislation would be introduced, no doubt in the first 100 days of government, and the government would be able to deliver on the promises it made to the people of Western Australia. It is with some disappointment, of course, that I note that this was not the case. We know now, of course, that it was not ready to govern and we had to wait for a full year plus before we would see legislation that implemented that very important election commitment.

This legislation is adequate in intent. We think this is an honest attempt by the government to tackle a very difficult issue—namely, drug laws. Although both I and the opposition have difficulties with some aspects of it in relation to the government's approach and how it has gone about this, the Labor Party supports the legislation. Our support is based on a solemn commitment that we share with the government to reduce cannabis use. It is for that reason that we will be supporting this bill, because we, in a similar way to the government, believe it is important that we continually work to reduce the harmful effects of cannabis use in our society.

We would like to discuss aspects of the bill and ask questions, which I am sure the minister will be able to answer for us. We have concerns that the bill will push more people into the criminal justice system and that the measures that the government is proposing to introduce in this bill have the capacity to swamp government services; therefore, the bill has very important resource implications. Indeed, if the government is serious, as it says it is, about reducing the incidence of cannabis use in our community and re-criminalising the possession of small amounts of cannabis, it is important that this legislation be accompanied by significant increases in resources. We know that significant resources will need to be provided before the legislation, as it is currently designed, can be implemented properly.

If the government were serious about getting tough on drugs, it would be doing some other things. It would be serious about getting tough on substance abuse, and we have provided the government with the opportunity to do so by it supporting the opposition's butane legislation. We have not had official word from the government on its position on the butane legislation, although media commentary suggests that the government does not support it. In some respects it is happy to support legislation that deals with the use of iconic drugs, because that gives it a good hit in the electorate, but when it comes to grappling with the real issues of substance abuse, it is left wanting. We wait, with some anticipation, for word on the resources that the government will provide to the various government agencies that will be charged with the task of implementing this legislation. Of course, we also wait for the government to introduce further measures to crack down on the real threat of drugs in society—that is, the chemical-based harder drugs such as amphetamines, which I believe represent a much more significant risk to our community.

I will go through some of the general historical aspects of this bill. It has largely been driven by the reforms that Labor was in the process of implementing when it was in government. Labor's reforms were based on a rational analysis of the Cannabis Control Act and how that act needed to be tweaked—it requires some pretty major tweaking, I must confess—or amended to make it more effective. The current legislation provides that if a person is caught with 30 grams or less of cannabis or an implement containing traces of the substance, the police can use their discretion in issuing a cannabis infringement notice. The person has the option of attending a drug education or intervention forum or paying a fine. As was the intent of the original legislation, the act was reviewed in 2007 by the Drug and Alcohol Office, which came up with a range of amendments to the legislation, and I think those amendments are worth noting. The first of those recommendations is that the Cannabis Control Act should be continued and its effectiveness enhanced in undertaking the reforms. It was recommended that the maximum amount of cannabis for which a cannabis infringement notice can be issued be not more than 15 grams; that is, the number of grams that an offender can have would be halved. It is worth noting that only 2.6 per cent of the CINs issued were for people possessing between 15 and 30 grams of cannabis. It is fair to say that restricting the amount to 15 grams would catch the main protagonists under these laws.

Another recommendation of the review is to remove the CIN scheme for the offence of cultivation of any number of cannabis plants; that is, the provision under which a person can cultivate two plants for personal use and still be issued with a cannabis infringement notice should be removed from the legislation. It was recommended that the Cannabis Control Act and the Young Offenders Act be amended to enable police to issue juveniles with one or more CINs on a single occasion; in other words, a young person who is caught with both a smoking implement with traces of cannabis and a quantity of cannabis would receive one CIN, even though that person had essentially committed two infringements. Other recommendations are that failure to comply with the requirements of the CIN or the commission by a young person of further offences should result in a referral to the juvenile justice team, and that juveniles who commit minor cannabis offences and are eligible under the CIN criteria be required to attend an individual therapeutic intervention sessions that addresses their cannabis use, and

that this intervention comprise at least one session. The Drug and Alcohol Office was moving in the same way that the government has signalled it intends to move—that is, away from attending group sessions under cannabis infringement notices and towards a one-on-one session and an intervention session identifying drug-use problems and referral for further treatment. Another recommendation of the review is to retain the option for adults to comply with a CIN by either attendance at a cannabis education session or payment of a financial penalty, but to increase the financial penalty for the offences of possession of not more than 15 grams of cannabis and possession of a smoking implement with detectable traces of cannabis. The reason for that recommendation is that there was a feeling that people were paying fines too often and were not attending education sessions, so the recommendation is to increase the incentives for people to attend education sessions.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I think only five per cent of the people actually attended the lessons. Most of them opted to pay the fine.

Mr R.H. COOK: In fact, initially the figure was around 13 per cent, but the minister is right; the number did drop dramatically. I think it is a reasonable amendment to the legislation to create a better incentive for people to attend those sessions.

Other recommendations of the review include that there be more drug awareness campaigns; that the definition of a type of cannabis for which a CIN can be issued be amended to include seeds, which is a very reasonable approach; that WA police, when practicable, be able to issue CINs on the spot, rather than detain an offender; that the Misuse of Drugs Act and the Cannabis Control Act be amended to ensure that the police can destroy an expiable quantity of cannabis after a CIN has been issued; that, in addition to the established community drug service teams and the Aboriginal alcohol and drug service, Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations be included as CES providers when they are willing and able to perform this function, which would provide better delivery of these education sessions to Aboriginal communities; that consideration be given to including other service providers when there is evidence of a lack of access to the CESs; that additional education programs, resources and referral mechanisms be developed to enable new and existing CES providers to maximise their effectiveness in assisting those who have cannabis-related problems; that the Cannabis Control Act be amended to enable the Director General of Health to develop an improved administrative process for approving and managing providers of cannabis education sessions; that consideration be given to amending the Fines Enforcement Registry process to enable a work development order to be imposed as an alternative to a financial penalty; that the regulation of the sale of cannabis-smoking paraphernalia and the provision of comprehensive health education material through retailers be maintained; and that the Cannabis Control Act be amended to improve the ability of the Drug and Alcohol Office to monitor compliance by cannabis paraphernalia retailers by enabling entry to and inspection of premises similar to the powers available in the Tobacco Products Control Act.

I raise these issues to illustrate to the chamber that these things were already in train and that the government has, to the best of its efforts, mirrored a lot of the recommendations that came out of the Drug and Alcohol Office review, and that it has included them in this legislation. Members on this side of the house have little problem supporting the main thrust of what the government is trying to do in this bill.

The bill in its current form does a range of things: it repeals the Cannabis Control Act 2003 and imposes these new measures through the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981. The new laws propose to force education upon anyone caught with a lower legal threshold of 10 grams or less. That is consistent with the Liberal Party's election commitment. Failure to attend an education session will result in prosecution, and juveniles will get two chances to attend a session and adults one chance. We understand that the government expects that under the new system upwards of 3 500 people will be attending a cannabis intervention session annually, which is around 1 000 children and 2 500 adults, and that there is an expectation that the CISs will have a success rate of around about a third. Two observations have to be made immediately. One is that one-on-one sessions for 3 500 people each year will be very resource intensive. We know that a lot of non-government organisations that run the counselling services are already having difficulty attracting counsellors and social workers into the field. Therefore, we suspect that the government will put a tremendous drain on that particular labour market but will struggle to recruit these people; and when it does recruit them, it will find there is a huge bill to pay. We have not had any indication of the sort of appropriations or costing that the government expects to be associated with that, and we expect the minister to provide that information in the course of the debate.

We are incredulous that the government expects a third of the people who are forced to attend these CISs will have a positive response to them. That is, they are compelled simply by the force of law to participate in these sessions and that somehow a third of those people will come out on other side responding in a positive manner. We think that is highly unlikely, and we have been told that there is good evidence to support this. It is not an unreasonable request to see some of that evidence.

Clause 7, which is proposed new section 19A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981, proposes a ban on the sale of smoking paraphernalia. The opposition believes that goes too far and will put an unnecessary number of people

who have these products as part of their stock out of business. Our main concern in that issue is not for those people who buy these implements for the use of cannabis, but we believe that by completely driving this market underground the government would lose the capacity to regulate this market and to ensure that it is being administered and the laws are being applied properly. That particular approach is also contrary to the approach contained in the Tobacco Products Control Act, which is to force these things under the counter. It is also inconsistent with the butane products control law, which imposes another regulation on retailers. The government has said that it will not support the butane bill, so while one can buy a butane container and die from inhaling the fumes, one is unable to buy a pipe; yet, to the best of my knowledge, no-one has ever died from cannabis inhalation, whereas they have died from butane inhalation. In fact, 400 people each year die from abuse of paracetamol; however, the government is not suggesting any regulations in relation to that.

The government has also suggested some changes around spent convictions, with the ability to apply for a cannabis conviction to be spent from an earlier time frame, from 10 years to three years. I wonder if this is the Blackstone Society clause; that is, those who undertake certain behaviour as an undergraduate law student but realise later it is not an appropriate way to behave if one is to be a lawyer, and they get it taken off their record before they have to complete their law degree. We think this is a reasonable clause because it suggests, and the way this was described by the Premier, that this allows people not to have the burden of these sorts of convictions for what a lot of the community describe as a fairly minor offence to be hanging over their heads for an undue period of time.

Mr R.F. Johnson: It would be 10 years.

Mr R.H. COOK: As the minister said, it is usually 10 years. There are some other areas of the bill that are worth noting. In proposed new section 8E(2)(a) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981, which relates to a cannabis infringement notice, for the first offence I notice that the police officer simply has to believe that an offence has occurred, and yet this is the first step along the way to a criminal justice process. I would like the minister to explain some of the circumstances and perhaps some of the workability of that. Proposed new section 8I(2) relates to a cannabis infringement notice not being able to be withdrawn if an alleged offender has completed a CIS. In the instance of mistaken identity, perhaps there is capacity for that aspect of the bill to be examined in closer detail.

As I said, the opposition supports this bill, and there is some justification for that. One of those things is that community attitudes and health research has taken us towards a more cautious approach to cannabis. It is not the harmless drug that people thought it was some years ago. I welcome this caution. Without coming to grips with the fact that people have always taken drugs throughout society, health experts and policy advocates have at least acknowledged it is not the harmless drug it was once thought to be. I remember bumping into an old friend, who I regarded as somewhat of an expert on drugs and their effects. I will call this chap Mike for the purpose of this debate. Mike had a very long personal experience of the impact of drugs. I joked with him that at some point we would have to come to grips with the issues associated with drug law reform in relation to cannabis. Unexpectedly he said, "Yes, I bet you will." That is because there is a lot of evidence out there now which suggests that it is not a harmless drug and it is quite harmful: Its relationship with psychoses, and the bringing on of early psychoses in schizophrenics who partake in cannabis at an early age is starting to be further explored by health experts. As a result of that, we have good reason to be cautious about the impacts of this drug.

Cannabis continues to be a drug that enjoys popularity, but this is on the wane. The annual drug use survey in the 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey showed us an interesting trend of participation with cannabis: 22 per cent of respondents to that survey in 1998 said that they had used cannabis in the previous 12 months. By 2004 that had dropped to 13.7 per cent, and by 2007 that had dropped to 9.1 per cent. That is a rational figure. In Western Australia that number in 2007 was 10.8 per cent. We see a remarkable reduction in the level of cannabis use in our society but, unfortunately, there has been a take up in other forms of drug use. There has been an increased use of cocaine and, as we know anecdotally, an increased use of other drugs. For instance, about a third of Australians aged 14-plus have used cannabis at some stage in their lifetime. Nearly 90 per cent have consumed alcohol, 8.9 per cent have used ecstasy, 6.3 per cent have used methamphetamines, 5.9 per cent have used cocaine and 3.1 per cent, or half a million Australians aged 14-plus, have used inhalants; that is, butane, petrol and glues at some point in their lifetime. The task that we have ahead of us with drugs continues to be significant. We have to continually look at these new drugs and new patterns of behaviour when framing our policies to ensure that the issues that impact most strongly on our society are addressed.

The government is correct to bring in these cannabis measures. Its action enjoys a high level of popularity. However, other drugs are emerging on the horizon and are being used by young people. These drugs also have a detrimental effect on their health and policymakers must continue to focus on them.

Cannabis remains a socially accepted form of drug. The survey revealed that two-thirds of the respondents support changing laws to allow people to use cannabis for medicinal purposes or to support clinical trials to explore its impact on medicinal purposes. Two-thirds of the respondents supported a change to legislation

permitting the use of marijuana for medical purposes and almost three-quarters supported a clinical trial for people to use marijuana to treat medical conditions. It is fair to say that the government needs to remain vigilant about the nature of drugs and how they can be used in alternative medicines while, at the same time, maintaining a hard line on their abuse.

This Western Australian legislation is not revolutionary. Other states have had similar legislation in place for some time and it remains in place. Members know that South Australia was the first jurisdiction to implement legislation for cannabis use. That legislation provided that a person found to be in possession of 100 grams of cannabis with no more than one plant would be fined between \$100 and \$150. In 1992 the Australian Capital Territory had similar legislation penalising a person found to be in possession of 25 grams, or five plants. In 1996 the Northern Territory brought in legislation penalising a person found in possession of less than 50 grams of cannabis with no more than two plants. We know Western Australia has had legislation in place since 2004 penalising a person found in possession of 30 grams and no more than two plants. We are not living in a particularly pro-drug environment. Currently, we have a legislative regime that is accepted across the nation. In the time in which it has been in place the level of cannabis use has plummeted.

I said earlier in this speech that this bill will result in significant resource implications for the government. To date we have had little or no response from the government on what resources it will bring to bear. As I said, each year 3 500 people attend cannabis intervention sessions. In addition, young people might be referred to a juvenile justice team or to further drug rehabilitation programs run by the Drug and Alcohol Office. It is fair to say that there will be significant resource implications for not only counselling, but also juvenile justice teams to implement their programs and for the Office of Mental Health to implement its programs.

I will dwell for a moment on how offenders will have the opportunity to attend cannabis intervention sessions when they live in remote locations. We know that there is a problem with the high use of cannabis in Indigenous communities. It is incumbent on this government to explain how it will rollout CISs across the state, such as in remote Aboriginal communities. How does it expect people to get to where these programs are held within 28 days or will the legislation provide for a rollover of that 28 days by an authorised officer? How will that be managed? Do people have to apply for a 28-day rollover while they are waiting for the juvenile justice team to visit their community? Will it be managed by case officers from Western Australia Police? If that is the case, what would be the resource implications attached to that? Significant resource implications are involved in implementing this legislation. Under the previous legislation the then Labor government saved about \$1 million per annum by providing diversionary programs from the court system.

We have a scenario; that is, 3 500 people attend CISs, an increased works program for the juvenile justice team, authorised officers under the legislation tracking the 28-day cycle of each of the offenders to determine whether they could reasonably be expected to attend a CIS, and increased costs for the court system as people start to move back into the court process. In the meantime we have no indication from the government about how it will resource this process. The only information we have from the government is that in the normal budgetary process it will allocate resources. That must mean that it will not be until July next year that we can expect to see this legislation implemented. If that is the case, we would be looking at a scenario that the government's 100-day plan, not introduced until many hundreds of days later, will not be implemented until two and a half years into its first term of office. It is hardly being given the priority that it said it would assign to getting tough on drugs.

The Labor opposition will support this legislation. However, we know from comments in the media that one member of this Parliament will not. The member for Jandakot said that this legislation is about big government and governments getting in the way of people. He said that governments should not be legislating to deal with such behaviour as lighting up a joint.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Did the member for Jandakot say that?

Mr R.H. COOK: The member for Jandakot made these statements on radio.

A government member: Was he talking about cannabis?

Mr R.H. COOK: No, he was talking about the Tobacco Products Control Act. He said it was an unnecessary intervention upon people's activities. It was pointed out to the member for Jandakot that smoking tobacco has serious health implications. He said that it was not good enough, because it breaks John Stewart Mill's rule on civil liberties. The member for Jandakot needs to think about his priorities on this issue. We in the Labor Party believe it is important to legislate on these things because society has an important collective role to make these decisions about the sort of community in which they want to live. "Not so", said the member for Jandakot.

Mr I.C. Blayney: He can speak for himself.

Mr R.H. COOK: He will speak for himself and no doubt he will say that John Stewart Mill would not have approved a piece of legislation that criminalised individual activity and interfered with civil liberties. It is a curious set of double standards to be shouting on radio that governments should not unnecessarily intervene and

that the tobacco control laws are indicative of a nanny state environment because we simply legislated to interfere with a person's individual rights. Surely, that is exactly what we are doing here, Minister for Police. We believe that is an important thing to do. That is what governments do. They make decisions about the lives of the people in their community. Members of Parliament, as leaders in and representatives of the community, make decisions to legislate in this way. That is why the opposition supports the legislation of the Minister for Police.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Why did you deliberately decriminalise it in the first place?

Mr R.H. COOK: We deliberately decriminalised it in the first place, member for Riverton —
Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: We introduced the legislation because we believed it was a more appropriate way to deal with cannabis abuse. What happened to the incidence of cannabis abuse during that time? Do I have to explain it to the member for Riverton one more time? The incidence of cannabis abuse went down, member for Riverton. That is an unfortunate statistic for the member's argument, I agree. We have never said that the law did not need improvement. In fact, we were going to make these improvements. We are very pleased that the government has adopted in large part the policies that the Labor Party took to the election. The government is very disingenuous about this, because we know that the government took a copycat approach during the election. Its only response was to introduce a little harsher rhetoric about the bill and copycat our responses. The implications of this legislation are exactly the same as those of the Labor policy. That is why we support the legislation.

Labor support for this legislation is based upon a desire that we share with the government to reduce the incidence of cannabis use. We believe that the government has an important role and an important obligation to explain the resource implications of this legislation and when it will bring those resources to bear. We believe that the government has an important obligation to explain why it believes it is so important to get tough on cannabis but not on butane abuse. We believe that it is important for the government to explain why it is not getting tougher on targeting other chemical-based harder drugs that we believe are also worthy of some attention.

The government has said that it is tough on drugs, and that is why it has a 100-day promise to introduce this legislation. The government is woefully late. However, we will support this legislation, because we believe it is important to support any efforts to reduce the harmful effects of cannabis on our society. When there are genuine attempts to address this issue, we believe it is important that we support them. For that reason we will support the legislation, although we would like some issues with the bill to be clarified, and we would like to see a continued reduction in the incidence of cannabis use, as we saw under Labor's legislation. We look forward to a continued reduction in the incidence of cannabis use under this legislation.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [10.23 pm]: This bill was ostensibly introduced to meet the Liberal Party election commitments, but it actually reflects many of the recommendations of the statutory review of the Cannabis Control Act 2003. The government seems to shy away from statutory reviews. We saw that last week with the Criminal Investigation Amendment Bill, when the government refused to have a statutory review in less than five years for what is quite significant legislation. Following the statutory review of the Cannabis Control Act 2003—a review that was conducted in a much more timely fashion—many of the recommendations of the review are enshrined in this bill. It is interesting that in the second reading speech on this bill the minister stated —

The Cannabis Law Reform Bill 2009 gives effect to the majority of these measures —

That is, the measures set out in the Liberal Party election promise —

insofar as they relate to cannabis. Other drug-related reforms arising from the tackling illicit drugs policy document are being reviewed by a joint working party comprising representatives from the Western Australia Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The government is planning to bring further legislation to Parliament in early 2010 to address those other aspects.

As we have heard tonight, cannabis consumption is on the wane. To some extent, this is not necessarily due to any hardline measures in legislation, but there is a general trend downwards for people to smoke generally, be it tobacco or cannabis. In any event, if we were to ask anyone on the street, "What should the government do to tackle drugs?" I do not think cannabis would be the first drug named by members of the community. There is a real problem with amphetamines in this community. The record number of drug laboratories that have been found this year is, I believe, the tip of the iceberg. Amphetamines are readily manufactured. There have been record numbers of pharmacy robberies in the past year or so. This is not moral relativism on my part; I am not saying that cannabis is not as problematic as are amphetamines. What I am saying is that clearly the focus on tackling illicit drugs in this community has to be broader than just cannabis. After 14 months of a Liberal government, we have a bill that pretty well enshrines the recommendations of a statutory review that was conducted under the last government. For a government that expresses that it is tough on drugs, this is a pretty half-hearted effort. Be that as it may, as the member for Kwinana said, it is a bill that by and large we support.

I suppose the key element in this bill is the so-called cannabis intervention sessions. These are to replace the education sessions that are in the current legislation. The statutory review found that these education sessions were not well attended, and the rationale was that because we are basically a reasonably affluent society, many of the users who were caught felt that they could readily pay the modified penalty available under that scheme rather than attend an education session. These new cannabis intervention sessions are compulsory and will be individual sessions as opposed to group sessions. They will be an hour and a half long, and they are described as therapeutic in nature rather than providing a group education session.

That brings me to the underlying question that psychologists—I am not a psychologist, but I have had this argument put to me on many occasions in another context—ask: how effective is a therapeutic session if people do not want to change? In another context in other endeavours of government at the moment—for example, in the corrective services area—the psychologists would say on many occasions that there is not a lot of point in having therapeutic sessions if people have not got to the stage in their thinking that they actually want to change their offending behaviour in some way. I do not see that this is any different. In any event, that is the proposal. I will talk a bit more about the resources shortly.

When we are talking about using this method to try to modify behaviour, we should also consider whether this approach needs to be better targeted for Indigenous offenders, for example. During our briefing session it was conceded that a number of offenders would be from remote and regional Western Australia and work would need to be done to modify the so-called therapeutic sessions for Indigenous offenders. Gunja is a real problem in regional and remote Western Australia. If we are embarking on these cannabis intervention sessions, we need to sort out the appropriate format of those sessions, which I am advised will be world's best practice, whatever that means. There clearly needs to be a modified session if we are to make inroads into cannabis use in regional and remote Western Australia. In that context, the member for Kwinana addressed the issue of resources very effectively. We are now looking at something like 3 500 of these hour-and-a-half cannabis intervention sessions. That is an enormous impost on the Alcohol and Drug Authority. Clearly, it does not have sufficient staff. It is equally clear that these sessions have not been budgeted for at all.

One has to question the real commitment of the government in introducing legislation when it knows full well that it does not have the funding to implement it. This is not the first time the government has done this; it does it frequently. It talks very tough on law and order and then has to scramble around for the resources to implement legislation. A very concrete example is the hoon legislation. When I leave the metropolitan area, it is quite common for me to get feedback from police officers who say that they do not impound cars under the hoon legislation because they do not have anyone who can tow cars and they have nowhere to store them. This bill is yet another example of where the government is talking tough. It is saying that it is getting tough on drugs, but it is not providing the means to enforce the law.

In terms of police resources, I am told that a number of additional FTEs will be needed to follow up offenders to make sure that they comply with the law and attend their sessions. There will also need to be attendant upgrades and changes to the information technology systems that record and track the progress of these offenders. I understand that it will cost about \$700 000 for the IT upgrades, and then there is the cost of the additional FTEs. I was further advised by the minister's advisers that a submission is yet to be made or is in the process of being made to the minister and, subsequently, obviously to the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee or cabinet. That seems to be a very roundabout way of doing things. It was my experience that if we could not get Treasury to sign off on the implementation of new legislation and some sort of guarantee that the resources were available, we could not get the bill to cabinet to get cabinet approval.

We have a situation where the police have had three per cent cuts across the board yet more and more obligations, imposts and duties are put on police, so they have to do more with fewer resources. During consideration in detail I will be asking the minister for greater clarity in what he believes are the additional resources that the police require to deliver and commit to this legislation. It is clear that if the resources are not presently there, they may not be there until the next budget. I spoke to a journalist today who said that when she made inquiries about the plans for police resources, she could get no guarantee—although she sought it from government—that resources to implement this legislation would be forthcoming in the near future. What an unbelievably cynical exercise for the government to say after 14 months that it is getting tough on drugs and introducing legislation, which, like everything else that seems to be fast-tracked through Parliament, is not on the list to be passed in the upper house before we break for the summer recess. In addition, even if it was passed, it would probably not be proclaimed or implemented for some considerable time because the resources would need to be found to ensure compliance with these new requirements.

We have a situation where we are imposing over 3 500 therapeutic interventions on the health department. Even if those resources are provided, we are not sure whether the government has the capability and the capacity to provide them outside the metropolitan area. We have a situation where upgrades to police computers need to be made and additional FTEs for the police need to be employed to ensure compliance with the legislation.

Although these intervention systems will be world's best practice, we are not sure how they will be modified so that they are culturally appropriate in Aboriginal communities. In that context, these cannabis intervention sessions will not be available when an offence is committed in addition to the cannabis offence. For example, if someone is found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis and he has also committed another offence, such as driving whilst unlicensed, these interventionist sessions will not be available. If the government is really serious about making a difference and convincing people that using marijuana is a dangerous or undesirable practice, surely it will not cut off those offenders who are found with cannabis and who may well be just as amenable to having this therapeutic intervention. That would have the effect that some members of the Aboriginal community will not have access to these programs simply because possession is in combination with the commission of another offence, however minor.

We are generally supportive of the provisions of this bill. They enshrine the provisions of the statutory review. It is good public policy to review legislation, especially when it does excite some controversy after a reasonably short period. It is in stark contrast to what the minister is prepared to do with the Criminal Investigation Amendment Bill 2009.

There needs to be a real and tangible commitment to the provision of resources. In the absence of that, I do not want to waste any more time debating this legislation when it is merely an academic exercise and the government is making no real or sincere attempt to make inroads into the use of illicit drugs in Western Australia.

MR A.J. WADDELL (Forrestfield) [10.39 pm]: As previous speakers have indicated, the Labor opposition will be supporting the Cannabis Law Reform Bill 2009. The issue that I rise to address relates to paraphernalia. I am sure that many members here, like me, have received several emails and letters from various proprietors of small businesses in Western Australia who sell this paraphernalia. That struck an interest with me, because I was not aware, when this bill was first proposed, that it would have an impact on their businesses. That led me down a path where I decided to do a bit of research into the paraphernalia that is associated with drug usage. The obvious intent of this bill is to remove drug paraphernalia from sale, and thus restrict the ability of people to access it, in the hope that in some way that will discourage people from using cannabis. The problem with that theory is that it is somewhat flawed. It is a form of thinking that seems to be stuck in the 1960s or 1970s, when if people wanted to buy something, they had to go to their corner shop. In this day and age, if people have a desire to buy something, they can go on the internet. To be frank, these days I do most of my shopping in this chamber via the internet. So I thought I would do a bit of an internet search on "cannabis implements".

Mr R.F. Johnson: Did you say you do most of your shopping in this chamber? I would not admit to that, my friend! I think that is most inappropriate!

Mr A.J. WADDELL: Yes. I have sometimes shopped late at night.

I typed the word "bong" into Google, and restricted it to Australia, and I was instantly presented with www.smokersfantasyworld.com.au, www.planetbongs.com.au, and www.offyatree.com.au. These are companies that sell a variety of implements, such as bongs made out of pyrex, acrylic, ceramic, bamboo and coconut; party bongs; and vaporisers. When I extended my search a bit further into international waters, I got an amazing list of things. I found Aladdin's Cave, which offers a range of Turkish and Ottoman waterpipes, shishapipes, spices, teas, pure aromatic oils, and incense. I found Canadian Hemp Company, which offers a variety of bongs, pipes, hemp, clothing and accessories. I also found Chillabong; Cyber Headshop; Dr Bongs; Easy Smoke; Fumari; Head Gear; The Hemphouse; Herbal Highs; The Hookah; Karmic Butterfly; Multi-Purpose Clamp Gallery, which offers homemade roach clips, for those who are interested, New Amsterdam Cafe; The Old Indian Shops; Paradox; Peace Pipes; 1Percent.com, which sells hand-blown colour-changing glass pipes, which I am sure are very entertaining; and Red Eye. The list goes on for pages. My favourite is Toronto Hemp Company, which is clever enough to call itself THC. These companies offer a range of items that are freely available over the internet. That is particularly the case for items that are not available in Australia. There would be no restriction whatsoever on the importation of those products into Western Australia. Therefore, the effect of this change in the law will be to simply put a number of small businesses in Western Australia out of business. Well, that may be the price that we are prepared to pay to send a message. It may be. I have no vested interest in this. I am not aware of any of these stores operating within my electorate.

Ms M.M. Quirk: The former member for Murdoch had an interest in one of these shops.

Mr A.J. WADDELL: Really? I was unaware of that, member.

I was interested in one of the items that is for sale. That is a cannabis vaporiser. I had never heard of a cannabis vaporiser, so I put my mind to finding out a bit more about what a cannabis vaporiser actually does. To educate the house—because I am sure we are all fairly uninformed about these things—marijuana vaporising is a technique that is used to avoid the irritating and respiratory toxics that are found in marijuana smoke. The cannabis is heated to a temperature at which the psychoactive ingredients evaporate, but without reaching the

point of combustion. That enables people to inhale a mist instead of the actual smoke. In fact, a fair bit of academic research has been done on this topic. It seems that at about 180 to 200 degrees Celsius, the active compounds within marijuana, in particular the THC, are vaporised, and it is emitted as a mist, but the more toxic components that are contained in the substance are not released because they have not been combusted. As a result, there is potentially less damage to the user. This method of smoking marijuana has become popular in the United States, particularly in those areas where medical marijuana has gained a foothold. People are using marijuana to treat glaucoma and a range of other problems and they do not want to irritate their pre-existing conditions by inhaling those types of toxins. They find vaporisers to be a cleaner way to ingest the marijuana. It is interesting to note that the vaporising implement heats the cannabis to a temperature of between 180 and 200 degrees Celsius, which is below the combustion point at which smoke is produced. Clause 7, which inserts proposed section 19A, states in part —

cannabis smoking paraphernalia means —

- (a) anything made or modified to be used in smoking cannabis;
- (b) any other thing that is prescribed by the regulations to be cannabis smoking paraphernalia.

That raises an interesting question as to whether this bill will capture vaporisers. They are slightly different from the other objects that are intended to be caught by this legislation.

I received some correspondence from Stuart Clifford, who is one of the proprietors of a company called Joynt Venture Perth. I must confess that I recall having seen this store. I think it used to be on Hay Street. It has some very interesting posters and a range of other items for sale. There seems to be an entire subculture of a particular type of “head artwork”, as they say, in the store. There is an interesting paragraph in Stuart’s letter, which states —

I assume that you are aware that a bong is not an indispensable item for the consumption of cannabis. If someone is unable to buy a professionally made hygienic utensil from a store such as mine, a crude article can be made using a variety of materials (possibly toxic) such as juice bottles, garden hoses, aluminium foil, coke bottles, buckets—even an apple!

That is an intriguing concept for “an apple a day”! The letter continues —

Many of these materials would have to be of questionable hygiene. Failing all of this, a cigarette rolling paper is a popular method and easily available. Bongs are also easily available from internet sources both in Australia and overseas.

He raises a number of interesting points. All we are doing is encouraging a less hygienic method of consumption, as opposed to a cleaner method, and we are potentially pushing the sale of smoking implements interstate or overseas. We are also pushing people into finding an alternative method of smoking marijuana, which could include a cigarette rollie paper. That could potentially fall into proposed section 19A, which is “anything made or modified to be used in smoking cannabis”. Someone could read this legislation as a ban on rollie papers because they could be used for smoking marijuana. People who use rollie papers for rolling tobacco might have a problem with that. That part of the legislation could be interpreted as widely as one likes. I see the Minister for Police shaking his head. I am sure that in the consideration in detail stage he will take the opportunity to clarify exactly what the government’s intention is in respect of that. We will propose an amendment to tidy up this clause because it seems to be a punitive measure for these types of small businesses and it does not have any real impact on the overall problem of cannabis consumption. It seems to encourage people to use cannabis in a way that might be unhygienic or that could create other problems. I suspect that the use of a Coke can and some of the plastics in PVC bottles could potentially expose people to inhaling toxins that we otherwise would not want them to inhale, all for the sake of using the proper utensil.

I suppose it really comes down to a philosophical point: do we want to take a completely punitive approach to cannabis use of “No, no, no; never, never, never”, or do we want to recognise that it is our role as legislators to minimise the harm to our community? Clearly, the intent of this bill is to minimise harm to our community. The intent is to implement a system that will reduce the use of cannabis. I share the view put by the member for Kwinana that in times gone by cannabis was seen as a relatively harmless substance, a bit of fun and something that kids did, but now there is a reasonable body of evidence that indicates that it can result in psychological problems. We need to look at this issue on a scale and ask ourselves what are the risks of the use of cannabis, what are the risks if we take away smoking implements and what will people use instead? Will people say, “Oh, dear, I can’t buy a bong, so I just won’t smoke it”? I suspect that somehow that will not be the rationale followed by a casual cannabis user. We need to ask ourselves what is the best way to discourage its use and, at the same time, minimise harm. We will be proposing amendments along those lines.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr C.C. Porter (Attorney General)**.

BILLS*Returned*

1. Racing and Wagering Legislation Amendment Bill 2009.
2. Racing Bets Levy Bill 2009.
3. Bookmakers Betting Levy Amendment Bill 2009.
4. Busselton Water Board (Supply of Water to Dunsborough) Bill 2009.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.52 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

PORT HEDLAND — OLD HOSPITAL SITE PLANS

1645. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Health

- (1) What funds have been allocated, and in which financial years, for the demolition of the old hospital in Port Hedland to take place once the new South Hedland Regional Health campus is open and operational?
- (2) What steps are being taken by the Minister's portfolio agencies to ensure that once the old hospital site has been vacated by the Health Department, there will be an immediate demolition of the old hospital and preparations put in place for the future use of this site?
- (3) Given the portfolio responsibility the Minister has for disused government facilities like the old Hedland hospital, will the Minister ensure that all of the necessary pre-planning and approvals are in place so that the old Hospital site in Hedland can be immediately transformed into its future role to meet the needs of the town of Port Hedland; and
 - (a) if not, why not?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1) No funds have been allocated from the Department of Health budget.
- (2) The disposal of the current Port Hedland Hospital will be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Treasury and Finance's "Asset Disposal Policy".

The transition plan into the new Hedland Health Campus at South Hedland requires that current services are transferred and fully operational in the new Hedland Health Campus before any demolition of the old site occurs. As a State Government asset, and under the Department of Treasury and Finance's "Asset Disposal Policy", the existing Port Hedland Hospital site will be returned to the Department of Planning who will initially offer the property to other Government agencies for re-use through the Department for Planning's Clearing House.

- (3) The requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance's "Asset Disposal Policy" will need to be completed before any alternative planning can commence regarding this site.

FITZROY CROSSING — TAFE FACILITIES

1646. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister representing the Minister for Training

- (1) What funds have been allocated for additional TAFE facilities for the Fitzroy Crossing community, and for which years have these funds been allocated?
- (2) What additional TAFE facilities will be provided in Fitzroy Crossing with these allocated funds?
- (3) Will the Minister ensure that his portfolio agency works closely with the local Fitzroy Futures Forum to ensure that the local TAFE facilities in Fitzroy Crossing meet the needs of the local community; and
 - (a) if not, why not?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:

- (1)

2009-2010:	\$2 million
2010-2011:	\$1 million
Total	\$3 million
- (2) Two general purpose Information Technology enabled classrooms and student administration services facilities.
- (3) Yes, representatives of the Department of Education and Training and Kimberley TAFE met with the Fitzroy Futures Forum on 16 September 2009 and will continue to consult with the local community through the Forum.
 - (a) Not applicable.

PORT HEDLAND — PUBLIC ACCESS TO COASTAL AREAS

1647. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Lands

- (1) Can the Minister detail what progress has been made by his portfolio agencies in securing an open public access route to the coastal areas to the south west of the town of Port Hedland?

- (2) Inside what timeframe will it be possible for the Minister's departmental officers to complete all the requirements necessary to have this public access route available for public use?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

- (1) The Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL) has had discussions with the pastoral lessee from Mundaballanga Pastoral Station on access issues and discussions with officers from the Town of Port Hedland. The Town of Port Hedland has agreed to arrange a meeting of key people with the knowledge of the area so that discussions on resolving access issues can occur. RDL has asked that the discussions be held as soon as possible.
- (2) The timeframes will be dictated by numerous factors including agreement from all parties on the proposed access routes, preparation of appropriate plans, public advertising and consideration of native title, Aboriginal heritage and environmental issues. RDL is working with all stakeholders to ensure that the access issues are dealt with as quickly as possible.

SOUTH WEST — LOGGING COUPES

1648. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Forestry

Can the Minister supply the House with the logging coupes from the last ten years for the South West Region?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

[See paper 1640.]

PRIMARY SCHOOLS — HAND-WASHING FACILITIES

1650. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Education

- (1) What measures are in place to ensure that primary school students are able to wash their hands while at school?
- (2) What measures does the Minister have in place to check that the policies are being implemented?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of schools where normal hand-washing facilities are not being provided; and
- (a) if so, what action will the Minister take?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (1) The Department of Education views the promotion of hand washing as an important public health measure and regularly promotes the practice through policy and advice to Western Australian public schools.
- (2) In June 2009, during the recent outbreak of H1N1 Influenza a survey of 47 schools across the State found that the majority of schools (83 per cent) provided soap for hand washing. Those schools that did not provide soap cited vandalism of soap products as the reason. Some of these schools provided alternatives such as hand sanitiser or asked students to provide their own hand washing products.
- (3) All schools have access to hand washing facilities.
- (a) Not applicable

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM — SUSPENSION OF OFFICER

1652. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

I refer to the response to Question on Notice No. 1341, and ask:

- (a) who was the officer suspended;
- (b) why was the officer suspended; and
- (c) when was the officer suspended?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (a)-(c) As this is a current legal matter, it is deemed inappropriate to release the name of the person and/or further information.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — SALARIES OF DIRECTORS GENERAL

1656. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier

- (1) As at 1 July 2008, what was the total salary and entitlements package – in dollars – of the Director General of the following agencies:
- (a) Department of Premier and Cabinet;

- (b) Department of Housing and Works;
 - (c) Department of Industry and Resources;
 - (d) Department of Planning and Infrastructure;
 - (e) Department of Local Government and Regional Development; and
 - (f) Department of Consumer and Employment Protection?
- (2) As at 1 July 2008, what was the total salary and entitlements package – in dollars – of all Deputy Directors General of the following agencies:
- (a) Department of Premier and Cabinet;
 - (b) Department of Housing and Works;
 - (c) Department of Industry and Resources;
 - (d) Department of Planning and Infrastructure;
 - (e) Department of Local Government and Regional Development; and
 - (f) Department of Consumer and Employment Protection?
- (3) As at 1 July 2009, what was the total salary and entitlement packages – in dollars – of the Director General (or divisional head) of the following agencies or divisions:
- (a) Department of Premier and Cabinet;
 - (b) Public Sector Commission;
 - (c) Department of Housing;
 - (d) Building Management and Works Division;
 - (e) Department of State Development;
 - (f) Department of Mines and Petroleum;
 - (g) Department of Commerce;
 - (h) Department of Planning;
 - (i) Department of Transport;
 - (j) Department of Local Government; and
 - (k) Department for Regional Development and Lands?
- (4) As at 1 July 2009, what was the total salary and entitlements packages – in dollars – of all Deputy Directors General of the following agencies or divisions:
- (a) Department of Premier and Cabinet;
 - (b) Public Sector Commission;
 - (c) Department of Housing;
 - (d) Building Management and Works Division;
 - (e) Department of State Development;
 - (f) Department of Mines and Petroleum;
 - (g) Department of Commerce;
 - (h) Department of Planning;
 - (i) Department of Transport;
 - (j) Department of Local Government; and
 - (k) Department for Regional Development and Lands?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Public Sector Commissioner advises:

- (1) (a)-(f) [see tabled paper no 1641] table A
- (2) (a)-(f) [see tabled paper no 1641] table B
- (3) (a)-(k) [see tabled paper no 1641] table C
- (4) (a)-(k) [see tabled paper no 1641] table D

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1657. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier; Minister for State Development

Could the Premier advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Government agencies in the Premier's portfolio advise:

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (including the Office of the Premier):

- (a) No
 - (i) Not applicable
- (b) Minter Ellison has been paid for services rendered in respect to lease agreements for members electorate offices and other commercial services.
 - (i) Total expenditure for the period 23 September 2008 to 14 October 2009 was \$25,697.84.

Public Sector Commissioner; Department of State Development; Office of the Public Sector Standard Commissioner:

- (a) No
 - (i) Not applicable
- (b) No
 - (i) Not applicable

Gold Corporation:

- (a) The Hon Cheryl Edwardes has not provided any service and no payment has been made.
 - (i) Not applicable
- (b) No payment was made to Minter Ellison since 23 September 2008 as they have not provided any services to the corporation.
 - (i) Not applicable

Lotterywest:

- (a) Lotterywest has not paid Ms Edwardes for any service in this time.
 - (i) Not applicable
- (b) No payment has been made to Minter Ellison by Lotterywest.
 - (i) Not applicable

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1658. Mr M. McGowan to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs

Could the Deputy Premier advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and

- (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

Deputy Premier

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Health

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) \$40,016.31 GST Exc.

Office of Health Review

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Nurses and Midwives Board

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not Applicable.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) \$765.60

Department of Indigenous Affairs

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1659. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Fisheries; Electoral Affairs

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Mines And Petroleum

- (a) No
 - (i) Not Applicable
- (b) Yes. Legal costs for Square Kilometre Array Project — Indigenous Land Use Agreement.
 - (i) \$ 36 428.70 (inc GST)

Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Fisheries

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Western Australian Electoral Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1660. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr B.J. GRYLLES replied:

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

LandCorp

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Landgate

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Peel Development Commission

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Office of the Minister for Regional Development; Lands

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Department of Regional Development and Lands

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

South West Development Commission

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1661. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Education; Tourism

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

For the Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

For the Department of Education

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

For the Department of Education and Training

- (a) No
 - (i) Not applicable
- (b) Yes
 - (i) \$13 794.09

Country High School Hostels Authority

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

For the Public Education Endowment Trust

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

For the Curriculum Council

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Education Services

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

For Tourism WA

- (a) No
 - (i) Not applicable
- (b) Yes
 - (i) \$1 931.92

For the Rottnest Island Authority

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1662. Mr M. McGowan to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport; Disability Services

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardees received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardees, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardees;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardees and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr M.J. COWPER replied:

Minister's Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Public Transport Authority

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

MainRoads

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Disability Services Commission

- (a) No
 - (i) Not applicable

- (b) Since 23 September 2008 to 26 October 2009 a total of three payments were made to Minter Ellison Lawyers.
- (i) The payments made to Minter Ellison Lawyers for the period in question totalled \$1,717.58. These payments were made in relation to legal costs associated with property leases for the Commission.

Department of Transport

- (a) No
- (i) Not applicable
- (b) Yes (Esperance Port Authority and Fremantle Port Authority)
- (i) \$1,694,384.67

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1664. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services; Road Safety

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
- (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
- (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

WA Police

- (a) No
- (i) Not applicable
- (b) Yes
- (i) \$1,618.86 — payments made for legal costs associated with a lease.

FESA

- (a) No.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i) Not applicable.

Office of Road Safety

- (a) No direct payment
- (i) By way of clarification. The Curtin-Monash Accident Research Centre (CMARC) is funded by a grant from the Road Trauma Trust Fund. Curtin University paid \$6000 to the Hon Cheryl Edwardes for her role as a member of the CMARC board. Board appointments are made by the university.
- (b) No
- (i) Not applicable

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1665. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Sport and Recreation; Racing and Gaming; Minister Assisting the Minister for Health

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwarde received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwarde, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwarde;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwarde and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Sport And Recreation

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

VenuesWest

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Western Australian Institute of Sport

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Racing and Gaming

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Burswood Park Board

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.

- (i) Not applicable.

Health Department of Western Australia

Response will be forthcoming from the Minister for Health

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1667. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Energy; Training

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Office of Energy

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Training and Workforce Development

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Education Services

The Minister for Education will respond of behalf of the Department of Education Services.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1669. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Child Protection; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Women's Interests

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department for Communities

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department for Child Protection

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1670. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Water; Mental Health

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Water

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes. These payments were made as administrative costs in lease negotiations. Minter Ellison represented the lessor.
 - (i) 25 Sept 2008 — \$710.30
24 Oct 2008 — \$202.4
21 Nov 2008 — \$333.58
17 June 2009 — \$924.68

Water Corporation

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Drug and Alcohol Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Note: The above answer is for the Drug and Alcohol Office only.

The Mental Health Division and mental health services in Area Health Services form part of the Department of Health and of hospitals boards which are in the Minister for Health's portfolio. As a consequence, information concerning the Mental Health Division and mental health services is included in the answer provided in respect of the Department of Health as a whole by the Minister for Health.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1671. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes
 - (i) \$35,546.73

Ministerial Office, Department of Local Government which includes The Office of Multicultural Interests, Heritage Council of WA And National Trust of Australia (WA)

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1672. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Minister Assisting the Minister for Education

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

Agriculture and Food:

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Forestry:

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (a)-(b) Answer to be provided by the Minister for Education.

Ministerial Office:

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES — PAYMENTS TO HON CHERYL EDWARDES

1673. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Environment; Youth

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office since 23 September 2008 for any service provided by Ms Edwardes, including any leadership or career workshop conducted by Ms Edwardes;
 - (i) if yes to (a), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Ms Edwardes and for what service was she paid;
- (b) since 23 September 2008 has the law firm Minter Ellison received any payment from any agency within the Premier's portfolio or the Premier's Office for any service provided by the firm; and
 - (i) if yes to (b), what is the cost associated with any payment or payments made to Minter Ellison?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Department of Environment and Conservation including the office of the Appeals Convenor

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Swan River Trust

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Perth Zoo

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

Office for Youth

- (a) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1674. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier; Minister for State Development

Could the Premier advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Premier’s portfolio, or the Premier’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Government agencies in the Premier's portfolio advise:

Premier's Office:

The State Government did not produce the Liberal Party's publication, a 'A Strong Start'. Unlike the previous Labor Government's taxpayer funded 'Building WA' booklet, which cost tax payers in excess of \$160,000, the Liberal Party's publication was printed and distributed without cost to the West Australian taxpayer.

The Liberal-National Government has a proud record of achievements in the first year in office which has seen unprecedented economic successes, social reform and a stronger approach to law and order.

There was fact checking of publicly available information which occurred by staff members however the Government makes no apologies for the assertions made in the 'Strong Start' publication and looks forward to the Liberal Party publishing similar documents in future.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet:

- (a)-(b) Yes
- (c) Director, Level 9 and Principal Media Adviser, Level 9.
- (d) Minimal, providing fact checking of publicly available information.

Public Sector Commissioner; Department of State Development; Office of the Public Sector Standard Commissioner; Gold Corporation; Lotterywest:

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1675. Mr M. McGowan to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs

Could the Deputy Premier advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Deputy Premier's portfolio, or the Deputy Premier's ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced 'One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)' publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

For the Deputy Premier, Department of Health, Office of Health Review, Nurses and Midwives Board and Department of Indigenous Affairs:

- (a) No.
- (b)-(d) Not applicable.

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1676. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Fisheries; Electoral Affairs

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister's portfolio, or the Minister's ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced 'One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)' publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Mines And Petroleum

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Fisheries

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Western Australian Electoral Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1677. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister's portfolio, or the Minister's ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced 'One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)' publication;

- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr B.J. GRYLLES replied:

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Great Southern Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Kimberley Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

LandCorp

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Landgate

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Mid West Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Peel Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Office of the Minister for Regional Development; Lands

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Pilbara Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Regional Development and Lands

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

South West Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1678. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Education; Tourism

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister’s portfolio, or the Minister’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

For the Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

For the Department of Education

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Public Education Endowment Trust

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Country High School Hostels Authority

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

For the Curriculum Council of WA

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

For the Department of Education Services

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

For Tourism WA

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

For the Rottnest Island Authority

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1679. Mr M. McGowan to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport; Disability Services

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister’s portfolio, or the Minister’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr M.J. COWPER replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Public Transport Authority

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

MainRoads

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Disability Services Commission

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Transport

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1681. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services; Road Safety

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister’s portfolio, or the Minister’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

FESA

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

WA Police

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Office of Road Safety

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1682. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Sport and Recreation; Racing and Gaming; Minister Assisting the Minister for Health

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister’s portfolio, or the Minister’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;

- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Sport And Recreation

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Venueswest

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Western Australian Institute of Sport

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Racing, Gaming And Liquor

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Burswood Park Board

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Health Department of Western Australia

Response will be forthcoming from the Minister for Health

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1684. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Energy; Training

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister’s portfolio, or the Minister’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Office of Energy

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Training and Workforce Development

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Education Services

The Minister for Education will respond on behalf of the Department of Education Services.

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1685. Mr M. McGowan to the Attorney General; Minister for Corrective Services

Could the Attorney General advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Attorney General’s portfolio, or the Attorney General’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr C.C. PORTER replied:

Commissioner for Children and Young People; Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia; Department of Corrective Services; Department of the Attorney General; Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia; Law Reform Commission of Western Australia; Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia; Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; Office of the Information Commissioner and Ministerial Office advise:

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1686. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Child Protection; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Women's Interests

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister’s portfolio, or the Minister’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department for Communities

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department for Child Protection

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1687. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Water; Mental Health

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister's portfolio, or the Minister's ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced 'One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)' publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Water

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Water Corporation

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Drug and Alcohol Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Note: The above answer is for the Drug and Alcohol Office only.

The Mental Health Division and mental health services in Area Health Services form part of the Department of Health and of hospitals boards which are in the Minister for Health's portfolio. As a consequence, information concerning the Mental Health Division and mental health services is included in the answer provided in respect of the Department of Health as a whole by the Minister for Health.

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1688. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister's portfolio, or the Minister's ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced 'One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)' publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:

Ministerial Office, Department of Local Government which includes The Office of Multicultural Interests, Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, Heritage Council of WA And National Trust Of Australia (WA)

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1689. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Minister Assisting the Minister for Education

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister's portfolio, or the Minister's ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced 'One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)' publication;

- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

Agriculture and Food:

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Forestry:

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (a)-(d) Answer to be provided by the Minister for Education.

Ministerial Office:

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

“ONE YEAR REPORT TO WEST AUSTRALIANS (A STRONG START)” —
PUBLIC SERVANT INVOLVEMENT

1690. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Environment; Youth

Could the Minister advise:

- (a) has any employee of an agency within the Minister’s portfolio, or the Minister’s ministerial office, been involved in the preparation, collation or dissemination of material associated with the recently produced ‘One Year Report to West Australians (A Strong Start)’ publication;
- (b) if yes to (a), which agency or office does the employee or employees work for;
- (c) if yes to (a), what is the title and level of the employee or employees; and
- (d) if yes to (a), what was the nature of the contribution of the employee?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department of Environment and Conservation

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Department for Communities: Office for Youth

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Swan River Trust

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

Perth Zoo

- (a) No
- (b)-(d) Not applicable

GASCOYNE-MURCHISON STRATEGY

1694. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

- (1) Will the Minister table the financial statements for the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy Board that operated for the period April 1998 – August 2004 and that were administered by the Rural Business Development Corporation?
- (2) Will the Minister table full details of the 180 grants funded under this Gascoyne Murchison strategy?
- (3) Will the Minister table the evaluation and monitoring program reports that were by the Intergovernmental Agreement that governed the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy?
- (4) In reference to the condition of grant, which required the refund of grants from which property was purchased and then sold within two years, will the Minister table the full details of each grant that has been returned?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (1) [See paper 1642A.]
- (2) [See paper 1642B.]
Please see the lists on pages 3, 4, and 8 of the tabled Gascoyne Murchison Annual Report 2003-2004.
- (3) [See paper 1642C.]
Please see the tabled Gascoyne Murchison Final Evaluation Report.
- (4) The Department of Agriculture and Food advises me that to their knowledge there were no grants, from which a property was purchased under the voluntary lease adjustment program, that were refunded.

FITZROY CROSSING — TAFE FACILITIES

1696. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister representing the Minister for Training

- (1) What funds have been allocated for additional TAFE facilities in Fitzroy Crossing?
- (2) For which financial years have these funds been allocated?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:

- (1) \$3 million.
- (2) 2009-2010: \$2 million
2010-2011: \$1 million.

PORT HEDLAND — OLD HOSPITAL SITE PLANS

1697. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Lands

- (1) What progress is being made with the hotel proposal for Port Hedland up on the old school site next to the current hospital?
- (2) What steps are being taken to plan for the use of the old hospital site?

Mr B.J. GRYLLES replied:

- (1) The State government has taken steps to finalise the outcomes from the Cumulative Impact Study over the West End (dust study). The final report has been completed and LandCorp is liaising with the Department of State Development, as the agency responsible for coordinating resolution of the uncertainty surrounding the impact of dust in the West End, to determine the development options moving forward.
- (2) The Town of Port Hedland and LandCorp attended a three day visit to Darwin in September to investigate the opportunities for replicating ideas from the Darwin Foreshore Precinct onto the Port Hedland foreshore. LandCorp envisages a delivery model working in partnership with the Town of Port Hedland to facilitate the provision of key infrastructure to leverage private sector development.

NORTH TOM PRICE PRIMARY SCHOOL — PRINCIPAL POSITION

1698. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Education

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the North Tom Price Primary School community has had to cope with a succession of Acting Principals this year?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that a perfectly competent Deputy Principal, who applied for the position last year, was not even given an interview and is now leaving the school to take up a position in Leinster?

- (3) Will the Minister advise whether advertising has recommenced for the substantive position of Principal at North Tom Price Primary School; and
- (a) if not, why not?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (1) There have been two (2) Acting Principals at North Tom Price Primary School in 2009.
- (2) Recruitment and selection within the Department of Education and Training is the responsibility of the Director General of Education.
- (3) Yes. The position of Principal, North Tom Price Primary School was advertised on the Government's JobsWA website and in The West Australian newspaper with a closing date of 19 October 2009.
- (a) Not applicable

COLLIE RESIDENTIAL LOTS — INFERIOR CONDITION

1701. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Lands

LandCorp recently developed and released additional residential blocks in Buckingham Way Collie. Owners of these blocks have had to spend considerable funds on landfill prior to construction, after it was found that the material used to fill the lots contained logs, rotting matter and gravel boulders and was found by the Collie Shire to be unsuitable for the construction of a residential dwelling. One owner has had to pay in excess of \$13,000 for removal of inferior material and refill of suitable material. I ask the Minister:

- (a) will LandCorp accept responsibility for the inferior condition of the blocks; and
- (b) will the Government refund the owners of these blocks the costs incurred to have the lots refilled with sand and made suitable to build on?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

- (a) No, I am advised that LandCorp's contractors used sand and gravel fill to level the lots in Buckingham Way to yield Class S sites in accordance with AS 2870 — Residential Slabs and Footings Construction. No logs, vegetable matter or boulders were placed on the lots.
- (b) No — the recommendation to excavate and install a sand pad onto these sites is a preference by builders to assist with footings design and installation. The sale prices for the lots were based on market valuations which took into account the lot design and construction finishes.

PERTH WATERFRONT — PREMIER'S PROPOSAL

1705. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier

Have the Premier's plans for the Perth Waterfront, as outlined in the Premier's media release dated 24 June 2009, been considered by the Expenditure and Economic Review Committee (EERC); and

- (a) if the above answer is yes, did the EERC consider detailed costings of the Premier's waterfront proposal?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

No..

ALBANY HEALTH CAMPUS — PLANS

1707. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Health

Have the Minister for Health's plans for the \$135 million Albany Health Campus, as outlined in the Minister for Health's media statement on 22 July 2009, been considered by the Expenditure and Economic Review Committee (EERC); and

- (a) if the above answer is yes, did the EERC consider detailed costings of the Minister's Albany Health Campus?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

As the EERC is an executive body of Cabinet, deliberations of the Committee are part of the Cabinet process and are therefore confidential. I am unable to answer the Member's question in its current form.

- (a) Not applicable.

ONE MOVEMENT FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL – WA SPORTS CENTRE SPONSORSHIP

1813. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for Sport and Recreation

As One Movement Pty Ltd has received sponsorship from the still unbuilt and unopened Perth Arena, as part of The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust, trading as VenuesWest, for the One Movement Festival, I ask:

- (a) what expected paid attendance totals of patrons for ticket-entry performances were offered/agreed to in negotiations with The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust;
- (b) what expected attendance totals of patrons for free performances were offered/agreed to in negotiations with The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust;
- (c) can the Minister detail the sponsorship agreement between One Movement and The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust; and
- (d) how many free tickets to paid events were offered to The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust, and how many were accepted?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

- (a) VenuesWest sponsored the One Movement luncheon on Friday 16 October. For the remainder of the festival, VenuesWest played no part, including ticketing or attendance.
- (b) As above.
- (c) VenuesWest's sponsorship of One Movement was only for the Asia Pacific Venues/Promoters forum on Friday 16 October and was to the value of \$18 000. The luncheon was attended by 30 invited Venue Managers and Promoters from Singapore, Hong Kong, India, South Africa, the United States, Thailand, China and from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.
- (d) Four Access-All-Area passes were provided to VenuesWest staff for attendance at the three-day conference sessions and festival events. As Part of the Sponsorship, all four of these passes were accepted and used. An additional three, day passes offered for Saturday and Sunday, two of these were used each day to attend the conference sessions and festival events.

PEEL MENTAL HEALTH — STAFFING

1821. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Mental Health

I refer to the staffing of Peel Mental Health and ask:

- (a) what was the full staffing composition of Peel Mental Health as at 1 June 2009;
- (b) what is the full staffing composition of Peel Mental Health as at 16 October 2009; and
- (c) could the Minister provide a list of the staffing positions and their full-time or part-time equivalent for each position at Peel Mental Health for the above dates?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (a) The year to date FTE for June 2009 was 37.24.
Note: This is data for 31 May 2009 as data for 1 June 2009 is not available.
 - (b) The year to date report is not available for 16 October 2009, however the closest complete reporting period proxy is for 31 October 2009, which was reported as 37.23 FTE.
 - (c) [See paper 1643.]
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